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### Saudi, Yemeni border talks postponed

RIYADH (AFP) — A Saudi-Yemeni committee decided to postpone until November 9 talks on demarcating the two countries' border, the official Saudi news agency SPA said Friday. The decision was announced in a statement by the joint Saudi-Yemeni committee on border demarcation following a meeting in Jeddah. The two sides agreed that a "joint comparison team" and civilian and technical teams should resume work on demarcating borders, the Saudi news agency reported. Saudi and Yemeni forces clashed July 19 on the disputed island of Al Duwayma creating a crisis between them. After the clash, in which three Yemeni soldiers were killed, both signed an agreement to avoid recourse to force to resolve the dispute. The land border between Saudi Arabia and Yemen has never been properly drawn.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جورديان تايمز يومية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية. الراي



INDIA'S 50TH YEAR INDEPENDENCE  
ANNIVERSARY  
SUPPLEMENT INSIDE

Volume 23 Number 6916 AMMAN SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 1998, RABI II 23, 1419 Price: Jordan 200 fils

## King: Officials with immunity should not feel exempt from accountability

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said in a message to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali that immunity accorded to public sector employees and civil servants should prompt them to perform their duties with honesty, integrity and dedication in a creative spirit. "The immunity granted to public sector officials should not give them the excuse to act irresponsibly or feel exempt from being held accountable for their negligence and failure to carry out their duty," the King said in the letter he sent to Majali on Thursday. "We aim at safeguarding the

interests of the nation and the Jordanian citizens, and this objective should rise above all other considerations and self interests," the King added. In the letter which was in reply to Majali's message expressing good wishes to him on the 46th anniversary of the King's accession to the Throne, King Hussein said: "Since the day of my accession to the Throne I vowed to dedicate my self and my life to serving the Jordanian family and I thank God for helping me to fulfil this pledge and for honouring me with shouldering the responsibility for the nation

throughout the past eventful years." Praising the prime minister for his outstanding services to the Kingdom, King Hussein said: "You have been one of the best citizens who have contributed to the construction of the nation and dedicated to serving their interests with utmost sincerity and in a spirit of altruism and self denial. You continue to remain the object of my confidence and respect and I am sure of your ability to act in the most distinguished manner and to shoulder responsibility with faithfulness. I share with you the keenness to enhance the principle of institutionalising public

administration and ensuring immunity for public officials." Thanking the prime minister for his good wishes on the 46th anniversary of his accession to the Throne, King Hussein said: "I express my gratitude to you for your noble feelings and your loyalty and I renew my confidence in you and take pride in your performance in all the positions you have assumed over the past decades." In reply to a letter he received from Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Zeid Rifai, King Hussein sent a message to Rifai thanking him for his letter.

## U.S. denies demanding halt to U.N. inspection in Iraq

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The United States acknowledged Friday that it had consulted U.N. experts on the timing of surprise weapons inspections in Iraq but denied it had demanded a halt to them to avert a new crisis with Baghdad. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright issued a strong denial of a report that she had urged U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) chief Richard Butler to scrap "challenge inspections" at two Iraqi sites suspected of holding forbidden weapons. "We have had no change in our policy," said Albright. "We support UNSCOM in its inspections and fully support UNSCOM's right to decide where, when and how it conducts its inspections." "I do not tell Chairman Butler what to do," she added at a State Department news conference. "There should be absolutely no doubt that the United States wants to see UNSCOM succeed." White House spokesman Michael McCurry earlier stressed that operational decisions were made solely by Butler. "That is not our role," McCurry said, although he acknowledged that U.S. and U.N. officials "consulted about the best way to conduct their mission," and that timing was one of the issues that would be discussed. In New York UNSCOM also issued a terse statement saying the allegations are false. Butler, reached by telephone, said that any suggestion he



U.N. special envoy Prakash Shah shakes hands with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz in a bid to defuse the crises over U.N. weapons inspections Thursday in Baghdad. Shah has said he would deliver a message from U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan to the Iraqi leadership, calling on it to reverse its decision to end cooperation with U.N. weapons inspectors (AFP photo)

received by orders from Albright would be "a very considerable distortion of what took place," adding that no member of the U.N. Security Council, including the United States, "has purported to give me instructions." The Washington Post said Friday that Albright urged Butler in an August 4 telephone call to scrap secret orders for the team to mount "challenge inspections" at two Iraqi sites suspected of holding forbidden weapons. Any demand from the United States for a halt to the inspections would fly in the face of the publicly stated U.S. headline demand for unconditional access to Iraqi sites and threats to use military force to enforce that stand. The report came, however, amid waning international backing for the sanctions regime against Iraq and increasing doubts Washington could win support for an enforcement strike. Arms Control Association Director Spurgeon Keeney noted that the alleged requests

on August 4 and 7 came just as Iraq froze all cooperation with the U.N. experts. "You can easily image there were some cautions on how to proceed if it looked like it was leading up to a crisis," he said. Dwindling support from Arab nations, France and Russia for the sanctions imposed following Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait also "complicates the U.S. position on this, particularly on how they are going to operate if the crisis escalates," said Keeney, whose group he stressed insists on full compliance with the arms inspectors. McCurry, meanwhile, insists that U.N. Security Council members were still open to all options — including military — and fully backed the U.S. position. "There is strong support for the completion of the UNSCOM mission there and strong support for all the steps necessary to ensure compliance," he said. But Washington has decidedly toned down the saber-rattling that accompanied the standoff that ended in February after U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan won an agreement to regain access to the sites. When Iraq reneged on that agreement by halting cooperation with U.N. arms inspectors on August 5, U.S. officials were warning against "raising the temperature" before an official report on the situation from Butler. The Security Council said Thursday it has decided to wait for its special envoy to Iraq to return from his current mission before deciding on its next moves to end a standoff, diplomats said. Intelligence reports have suggested that the two Iraqi sites U.N. inspectors were targeting may have held forbidden weapons components and documents describing Iraqi efforts to conceal them, the daily said. Officials who disclosed the information on Thursday regarded the abandoned leads in Iraq as the most promising in years.

## In first execution in '98, confessed killer hanged to death

By Rana Hussein  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter  
AMMAN — A 35-year-old Syrian man was hanged for murdering a couple and their toddler son in Amman in 1997, the first execution in Jordan this year, judicial sources said on Friday. Fathi Jasi was sentenced to death in January for drugging and burning to death Jamal Abdo, 38, his wife Manal Othman and their two-year-old son Khalid at their apartment before burying them in a remote farm. After his arrest on June 19, 1997, Jasi confessed to killing the Syrian family after

a financial dispute with Abdo's father. Jasi was hanged inside a special room at the Swaga prison south of Amman at dawn on Thursday, according to an official who witnessed the execution. He was pronounced dead after 18 minutes, he added. Before his death, he asked for his body to be buried in Syria and said he was sorry for what he did. Eleven people, including three women, were hanged in the Kingdom in 1997 after being convicted of committing various crimes, sparking renewed calls from local and international human rights

activists to put an end to executions in Jordan. Death sentences must be ratified by a Royal Decree before they are carried out. Lawyer Asma Khader, one of Jordan's leading anti-execution voices, criticised the hanging as "a harsh punishment and a violation of human rights." She said she was against such sentences because of the possibility of human error that could be committed by witnesses, investigators and judges. Khader said all international studies on executions proved that this "kind of punishment does not deter individuals from committing a murder." "Therefore, I call for the abolishing of the death sentence," she told the Jordan Times on Friday. "Instead, I call for implementing rehabilitation programmes to help these individuals." The London-based Amnesty International (AI) has repeatedly urged activists to appeal to His Majesty King Hussein and the government to commute all death sentences passed by Jordanian courts. In numerous statements sent over the years, AI urged governments to work towards abolishing the death penalty by the 50th Anniversary of the

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1998. AI does not condone crimes of violence but recognises the responsibility of governments to bring the perpetrators to justice, according to its statements. However, AI opposes the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment as specific in the UDHR. Jasi was convicted by the Criminal Court of all five charges pressed against him — theft, molestation, arson, abduction, and premeditated murder (three counts).

## Egypt hopes Westerners will take Arab example to help resolve tourism doldrums

CAIRO (AP) — Last November's massacre of 58 foreigners at an ancient temple left Egyptian tourism in tatters. Now the country is getting a crush of visitors, most more drawn to shops and nightclubs than Pharaonic monuments. Arabs from the oil-rich Gulf — men in their white dishdashas and women swathed in black — are crowding into Cairo hotels, restaurants and shopping malls. While Gulf Arabs usually come in the summer to escape stifling heat at home, tourism officials say this year's numbers are far greater, in part because of Egypt's first Shopping and Tourism Festival that started in mid-July.

"Thank God, I am on my feet again. I thought it would take years to see tourists back," said Mohammed Osman, owner of Amarcos Travel in Cairo. Osman, deputy head of Egypt's Chamber of the Tourism Industry, said that hotel occupancy is high in Cairo despite exceptional heat here and that most hotels are booked through September. The shopping festival — an idea the Gulf emirate of Dubai originated two years ago — includes sales in stores and discounts of up to 40 per cent on EgyptAir flights and up to 50 per cent in hotels. It lasts until Aug. 20. Egypt also used other ways to

draw Arab tourists. After the killing of 58 foreigners Nov. 17 by Muslim radicals at Luxor in southern Egypt, the government quickly pleaded with fellow Arab states to encourage visits. It also ran promotions in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman and the United Arab Emirates. Tourism Minister Mamdouh Al Beltagui repeated a simple message to his Arab neighbours: To help us, you must come as an example to Westerners that Egypt is safe. But there are other reasons to visit Egypt. While the Middle East is having a heat wave, this week's highs of 38 degrees Celsius in Cairo are well

below the 43 degree temperatures in Dubai or 46 in Mecca. Life in Egypt also is more free-wheeling than in conservative Gulf states which enforce strict Islamic rules. In Egypt, men and women swim together at beaches and hotel pools. Many restaurants serve alcohol, and night-clubs along Cairo's Pyramid Road are famous for belly dancers and other entertainments for male customers. In fact, some rich Arab visitors temporarily "marry" young Egyptian women — an old practice to skirt the Islamic prohibition on premarital sex. While opposed by most Muslim clerics, it is still sometimes

employed. Officials do not yet have figures on Arab visitors for the shopping festival. But in the first four months of the year, Arab tourism was up 14 per cent over 1997, and major hotels in Cairo are reporting occupancy rates this week of 90-100 per cent. Carmen Razy, sales manager of the Ramsis Hilton Hotel, said the 1,200-plus rooms in the Ramsis and the nearby Nile Hilton were all full. Still, it's uncertain whether the rush of Arabs will translate into a general recovery for tourism, which was Egypt's second leading foreign currency earner behind salaries sent home by Egyptian workers abroad. Arabs made up only about 20 per

cent of the 3.6 million tourists to Egypt last year. And while Arab tourism was up 14 per cent in January-April over last year, overall tourism was down 33 per cent for the same period. It's too early to say if Western tourists will return for the winter season starting in November — or if they will go back to Luxor. But many in the tourism industry believe Egypt's ancient monuments eventually will bring back Europeans, Americans and Asians. "There is one place in the world where you can see the Pyramids, the sphinx and the pharaonic temples in Luxor and Aswan," said Razy, the Hilton sales manager.



HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, shakes hands with a woman wearing traditional costume Friday, during the ninth annual Arts and Culture Festival in Fuheis, outside of Amman (AP photo)

## Inaugurating Fuheis festival Regent assails recent football hooliganism

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, has criticised the acts of vandalism, rioting and violence which followed a recent soccer match between Al Wihdat and Faisali clubs at the Sports City saying that such acts do not reflect the spirit of sports. Cautioning the Jordanian people to close ranks and enhance national unity, the Regent said "this country is for all Jordanians who are loyal to His Majesty King Hussein and believe in the united Jordanian family."



The Armed Forces musical band plays on the arrival of Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, for the opening ceremony of 9th Fuheis Festival on Friday (Reuters photo)

political parties and the Arab Organisation for Human Rights in Jordan condemned the attack and sent a message to Prince Hassan seeking his intervention in this case saying that the attack marred the image of the country and its stability. In his address, the Regent stressed that Jordan "is for all and remains as a pluralistic society," calling for "responsible and constructive dialogue as the best language that can safeguard our identity and our future." The Regent urged Jordanians "to renounce hatred and greed and to move forward hand in hand reflecting the Jordanian unity and rallying behind the King shouldering responsibility with seriousness and loyalty." Prince Hassan highly praised the Fuheis festival as a means for building civic society on the basis of Jordanian values calling for further cohesion in a spirit of love and affection among the

citizens of Jordan. In his address the Regent reassured the Jordanian people about the health condition of King Hussein saying that in his daily contacts the King enquires about the country and its people, expressing optimism over the future. At the opening ceremony, Prince Hassan honoured a number of farmers for their distinguished work and for developing their land without using pesticides. He also received a token gift from the director of the Fuheis Sports and Cultural Club, Ayman Samawi, who delivered a speech welcoming the Regent and outlining the festival's programmes which he said display the traditional Jordanian way of life. Attending the ceremony were the Speaker of the Senate Zeid Rifai, Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour and other prominent public figures.



## Taleban rule threatens permanent instability in region — Tehran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Domination of Afghanistan by the Taleban Islamist militia threatens the whole region with permanent instability, Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi said Friday.

"The Taleban are Pashtuns [the largest single ethnic group in Afghanistan but only around half the population] and cannot sideline all the other ethnic groups from the political scene" without sparking "continuing resistance," Kharazi said.

"In such circumstances, there will be no peace in the country," he told the official news agency IRNA.

Former Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, at weekly prayers at Tehran University, also spoke out against the Taleban Friday.

"I warn the Taleban and those who support them

that we will not support instability and conspiracy along our borders," he said in reference to neighbouring Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

The Iranian foreign minister also condemned the human rights record of the Taleban and their brand of fundamentalist Sunni Islamists.

"The Taleban approach to Islam is wrong and constitutes a threat for the whole region," he said.

"The Taleban promote a false, mistaken view of Islam and violate human rights and particularly the rights of women," Kharazi said in a press statement from Turkmenistan, where he is on official visit.

Iran, which has a 945-kilometre border with Afghanistan, is strongly opposed to the Taleban,

### Rafsanjani rejects accusations about anti-U.S. bombings

IN A FIERY speech during weekly Friday prayers at Tehran University, former Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani denounced accusations that Iran was behind the recent U.S. embassy bombings as "lies."

"All the accusations made against Iran are lies. We have also been victims of terrorism, and I call on the White House to listen to me, as a holy man, and to try to discover the true roots of terrorism," he said.

"Instead of offering a reward of two million dollars to find the attackers you should set a reward, of two million dollars or perhaps a Nobel prize, for whoever writes the best article on the causes of terrorist acts against the United States."

The U.S. "must try to discover why, each time somebody wants justice, they attack the Americans," he said.

"It's because you yourselves support terrorists in Israel, in southern Lebanon and also the People's Mujahadeen [Iran's main armed opposition movement]," Rafsanjani said.

"We condemn terrorism and are truly ready to fight it."

The Iranian foreign ministry last week officially condemned the U.S. embassy attacks which left at least 257 dead.

which it accuses of "genocide" against other Afghan groups, particularly the Hazara community, who share Iran's Shiite Muslim faith.



POLICE BUS BOMBED IN ISTANBUL: A Turkish police officer Friday looks at the damage caused to a police bus as another sits behind the driving-wheel after a homemade bomb exploded and wounded four people near Istanbul University's literature faculty building. A policeman was also among those hurt by the blast, which took place beside a bus holding members of a permanently stationed crack police team (Reuters photo)

## Expulsions from Israeli unit after infiltration

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Israeli platoon commander and soldier were expelled from their elite unit after a Lebanese guerrilla managed to slip into their heavily fortified post and escape alive, the army said Friday.

The incident in south Lebanon had caused an uproar in the Israeli military, with the chief of staff, Maj. Gen. Shaul Mofaz, calling it a "grave operational failure." In addition to the two expulsions, letters were being placed in the files of three senior officers — a lieutenant colonel, a colonel and a brigadier general — criticising them for failing to adequately prepare the paratroopers for their mission.

The infiltration occurred Sunday when a fighter from the Hizbollah guerrilla force made his way in broad daylight into an Israeli-held position in Israel's self-declared security zone.

According to the army's account, he encountered a paratrooper, apparently at close quarters, and the two grappled.

Another soldier shot and wounded the guerrilla, who threw down his assault rifle and escaped.

The army spokesman's office said it was decided after an inquiry that the soldier who initially confronted the guerrilla and his platoon commander — normally a second lieutenant — would no longer be allowed to serve as combat paratroopers.

## Israeli police arrest Muslim cleric in connection with settler shooting

NABLUS (AP) — Israel arrested a Muslim cleric from the West Bank suspected of involvement in the shooting deaths of two Jewish settlers last week, neighbours and Israeli Radio said Thursday.

Dirar Hamahni, a 37-year-old religious leader, was arrested late Tuesday from his village of Assira, close to the Jewish settle-

ment of Itzhar where the two Jewish settler students were killed while patrolling their settlement, Israeli radios reported.

Hamahni's neighbour Mohammad Shder said he was active in the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas, and was expelled from Israel in 1992 along with hundreds of Islamic radicals, who were

allowed to return a year later.

Two other Palestinian men were arrested Wednesday, also in connection with the killings.

Also Thursday, an Israeli military court sentenced a Hebron resident to two life sentences for the murder of three Israelis in separate 1994 attacks, the Israeli army said.

## Three embassies in Beirut seek tighter security — official

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon has agreed to requests from at least three embassies in Beirut for tighter security after bombing attacks at U.S. missions in east Africa, a foreign ministry official said on Friday.

The official said the Egyptian and Turkish embassies asked for more guards and tighter security measures around their missions, and Lebanese authorities responded positively.

"The requests of some embassies came after the

bombing attacks against the U.S. embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam," the official told reporters.

There was no official available in the Egyptian embassy to comment. A Turkish embassy official told Reuters there was no relation between its request and the bombings in Africa.

"It has nothing to do with the Americans. We asked for the arrangements before the bombings," the Turkish diplomat said.

The foreign ministry official did not name any other embassies which have asked for tighter security.

On Wednesday, a U.S. embassy official in Beirut said tighter security measures were taken at the compound and that Lebanese authorities were very cooperative after last week's bomb attacks in Kenya and Tanzania in which more than 250 people were killed.

An Egyptian trade office in Nairobi, which was near the U.S. embassy, was destroyed in the attack.

## Iraq has 'nothing to fear' from Turkish hydroelectric projects

ANKARA (AFP) — Iraq has nothing to fear from Turkish hydroelectric projects and should cooperate with Turkey instead of holding up building work, a Turkish minister said Friday.

"I call on Iraq to coordinate with us instead of holding up dam construction," State Minister Salih Yildirim said in a press briefing.

Yildirim is in charge of GAP, an ambitious irrigation and energy production project in the southeastern Anatolia region.

The project, costing a total of \$32 billion, has angered Syria and Iraq, who fear its effect on their economies and accuse Turkey of rationing water.

"Iraq accuses us of not coming clean in the talks, but that's not true... GAP is not a strategic project. It is purely humanitarian," Yildirim said.

Iraqi Irrigation Minister Mahmoud Diab Al Ahmad said Thursday that Iraq would resort to the courts to prevent Turkey from retaining water

from the Euphrates River by building dams on it.

The Turkish minister stressed a "limited dialogue" was under way with Syria and Iraq about the waters of the Euphrates and the Tigris.

Syria, which is also irrigated by the Euphrates, has also criticised Turkey for rationing its water by building dams on the river as part of the GAP project.

Turkey replied that it was allowing a sufficient amount of water through the dam for Syria's needs.

"Syria does not use water rationally. It should store water from the Euphrates in reservoirs," Yildirim added.

Turkey has almost completed the first half of the project to revive the Upper Mesopotamian plain with water, which involves 22 dams and 19 hydroelectric power plants.

The project was expected to be completed in 2005 but was put back to 2010 because of financial problems.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Ciller says no Islamist election alliance

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's conservative opposition leader Tansu Ciller has denied reports that she plans to forge a formal alliance with an Islamist party to fight general elections next April, the Anatolia news agency said. "The DYP [True Path Party] is not wary to alliances. We will come to power by ourselves," the agency quoted former prime minister Ciller as saying late on Thursday night. Her remarks followed press reports that she had held talks with main opposition Islamist leader Recai Kutan and other right-wing opposition figures on forming an election alliance. DYP leader Ciller confirmed the talks, but said they were aimed at setting up an informal cooperation against alleged corruption by coalition government parties, Anatolia said.

### Iraq calls for Arab efforts against embargo

BAGHDAD (AFP) — An official Iraqi newspaper Friday called on Arab nations to make a united stand in working toward lifting the eight-year embargo against Iraq, in effect since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. "We call on Arabs today to take a clear stand and put all their weight behind bringing the embargo to an end," said the Al Sawra newspaper. In so doing, the Arab World "will win one of the most important challenges it faces, and this victory will give it the confidence to handle future challenges, which are many and complicated," the paper added.

### Turkey demands release of Iranians

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey on Friday demanded the immediate release of Iranian diplomats recently seized by the Taleban militia in Afghanistan when they took control of a city in the north of the country. Ankara issued its statement after receiving official word from Iran of the diplomats' detention, a communiqué from the Turkish foreign ministry said adding that their detention was an "act of terrorism." "Turkey demands that foreign nationals be allowed to leave Afghanistan of their own free will in accordance with their status," the communiqué said.

### Eleven dead in Riyadh fire

RIYADH (AFP) — Eleven family members were found dead after a fire in a Riyadh home, relatives said Friday. The victims, a woman and 10 children between the ages of two and 15, were asphyxiated as the blaze ripped through their home early Thursday while they were sleeping. The cause of the deadly fire has not yet been determined. Fires happen frequently in the Gulf region, where temperatures regularly surpass 47 degrees Celsius in August.

## Egyptian extremists kill three Copts in south

CAIRO (AP) — Suspected Islamists shot and killed three Coptic Christian brothers on their farm in southern Egypt, police officials said Thursday.

The attack by three gunmen took place Wednesday night near the village of Damshir in Minya province, 190 kilometres south of Cairo.

The body of another villager was

found Thursday in a sugar cane field on the outskirts of Damshir and police suspect he was killed by the same gunmen as they made their escape.

They identified the man as Ezzat Ali Hassan, a Muslim. It was not clear what was the motive for his killing.

The Christian victims were identified as Farag Gabr Shehata and his

brothers Yaaqoub and Wahib. Police said that two other farmers who had been with the Shehata brothers fled when the shooting started and were safe.

The interior ministry, which is responsible for internal security, issued a statement late Wednesday saying the attackers were being sought.

Islamists have waged a campaign since 1992 to try to overthrow Egypt's secular government and replace it with Islamic rule. Their targets have included Coptic Christians, foreign tourists and police.

Some 1,250 people have died in the violence, most of them police and extremists.

## JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME TWO  
15:10 ...Cartoon — Postman Pat  
15:30 ...Clowning Around  
16:00 ...Drama — Neighbours  
16:30 ...Doc. — Scandi Nature  
17:00 French Programme — "Faut Pas Réver"  
18:00 ...Acapulco Bay  
19:00 ...Le Journal  
19:15 French Programme — "Le Ciel de Colomb"  
19:30 ...News headlines  
19:35 Quiz Show — You Bet Your Life  
19:55 ...Cinema, Cinema  
20:30 ...Prism  
21:10 ...Drama — Sirens  
22:00 ...News in English  
22:30 Feature film — "The Secretary"  
23:59 ...Country Music  
00:30 ...End of T.X.

## PRAYER TIMES

04:30 ...Fajr  
05:54 ...Sunrise/Duha  
12:40 ...Dhuhr  
16:19 ...Asr  
19:26 ...Maghrib  
20:50 ...Isha

## CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Sweifeh, Tel. 5920740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel.  
4632785

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

St. Joseph Church Tel. 4623590  
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 462366  
Anglican Church Tel. 4623483/4623481  
St. Aftem Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751  
Amman International Church Tel. 865897  
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 5683404  
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 4654932  
St. John the Baptist at De la Salle College Tel. 5661757  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 4637440  
Greek Orthodox Church Tel. 4646138  
Church of Presentation, Sweifeh Tel. 5920146  
The United Catholic Church Tel. 4624757  
The English-Language Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190  
Evangelical Free Church Tel. 892679  
The Baptist Church Tel. 4628052  
The Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331  
The Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

## WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology  
Relative hot weather conditions will persist today with temperatures higher than average by 2-3 degrees centigrade and winds northerly to moderate. In Aqaba, it will be hot, winds northerly moderate, and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. 22/35  
Aqaba 28/40  
Deserts 20/39  
Jordan Valley 28/40

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 35 Aqaba 39. Humidity readings: Amman 43 per cent, Aqaba 48 per cent.  
Following are the highest temperatures expected today in the following areas:  
Ajloun 28  
Jerash 34  
Umm Qays 34  
Madaba 34  
Petra 36  
Dead Sea 41

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

## NIGHT DUTY AMMAN:

Dr. Yousef Rashid 4875792  
Dr. Jum'a Abu Dhiab 4758848  
Dr. Ahmad Manna 539413  
Dr. Walid Masi 5675485  
Firas pharmacy 5661912  
Al Asema pharmacy 4637055  
Nairohki pharmacy 4623672  
Al Salam pharmacy 4636730  
Yacoub pharmacy 4644945  
Shmeisani pharmacy 4637660  
Najla pharmacy 53477632  
IRBID:  
Dr. Issam Salih 246858  
Al Quds pharmacy (—)  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Walid Halaseh 982799  
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

## EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 4637111  
Civil Defence Department 5661111  
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 4630341  
Civil Defence Emergency 199  
Rescue Police 192 4621111 4637777  
Fire Brigade 4617101  
Blood Bank 4775121  
Highway Police 5343402  
Traffic Police 4896390  
Public Security Dept. 4630321  
Hotel Complaints 5605800  
Price Complaints 5661176  
Water & Sewage Complaints 4897467  
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111  
Telephone Information (directo-

ry assistance) 121  
Overseas Calls 010230  
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 4623101  
Abdali Tel. Repairs 5661101  
Jordan Television 4773111  
Radio Jordan 4774111  
Water Authority 5680100  
J. Electricity Authority 5815615  
Electric Power Co. 4636381  
RJ Flight Information 44-53200  
Queen Alia Int. Airport 44-53200

## HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 5921199  
The Islamic Abdi 5666131/7  
Hussain Medical Centre Tel. 5856856  
Luzmila 4630195  
Khalidi Maternity 4644281/6  
Akileh Maternity 4642441/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity 4642362  
Malhas, J. Amman 4636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani 5607071  
Shmeisani Hospital 5669131  
University Hospital 5353444  
Al-Muasher Hospital 5667227/9  
Al-Ahli, Abdali 5664164/6  
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 4777101/3  
Al-Bashir 4775111/26  
Army, Marka 891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital 5602240/50  
Amal Hospital 5674155  
ZARQA:

ZARQA Govt. Hospital (09)983323  
ZARQA National Hospital (09)900560  
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990  
IRBID:  
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275  
Ibn Al Nafess Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

## FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (44)53200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights is obtained on telephone (44) 52700 or (44) 533250.

## ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
07:10 ...Tehran (RJ)

08:30 ...Damascus (RJ)  
09:45 ...New Delhi (RJ)  
10:25 ...Beirut (RJ)  
10:30 ...Karachi, Dubai (RJ)  
10:45 ...Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
11:10 ...Colombo (RJ)  
15:00 ...Istanbul (RJ)  
17:30 ...London (RJ)  
17:45 ...New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
20:15 ...Cairo (RJ)  
23:00 ...Milan (RJ)  
23:05 Madrid, Larnaca (add)(RJ)  
23:30 ...Berlin, Frankfurt (RJ)  
02:30 ...Madrid (RJ)  
05:30 ...Bangkok (RJ)

Other Flights  
06:05 London, Damascus (BA)  
13:00 ...Riyadh (SV)  
14:10 Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)  
15:05 ...Vienna (OS)  
16:25 ...Dubai, Muscat (EK)  
18:40 ...Beirut (ME)  
19:00 ...Paris (AF)  
19:05 ...Frankfurt (LH)  
23:35 ...Cairo (MS)  
23:40 ...Amsterdam (KL)  
01:05 London, Damascus (BA)  
02:05 ...Belgrade (JU)  
03:00 ...Rome (AZ)

Royal Wings (RW)  
10:20 Aqaba (arriving at QAIA and proceeding to Marka Airport) (RW)  
18:00 Aqaba (arriving at Marka Airport) (RW)  
23:25 Aqaba (Marka Airport) (RW)

## DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
06:45 ...Beirut (RJ)  
09:40 ...Istanbul (RJ)  
10:35 ...Madrid (add) (RJ)  
11:45 ...Berlin, Frankfurt (RJ)  
12:00 ...Geneva, Milan (RJ)  
12:00 ...Amsterdam, Chicago, Detroit (RJ)  
12:40 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
13:00 ...Madrid (RJ)  
13:10 ...Paris (RJ)  
13:15 Brussels, Amsterdam (RJ)  
14:05 ...London (RJ)  
16:30 ...Cairo (RJ)  
21:05 ...Riyadh (RJ)  
21:20 ...Bombay (RJ)  
22:00 ...Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
00:45 ...Jeddah (RJ)  
01:15 ...Dhahran (add) (RJ)

Other Flights  
07:35 ...Damascus, London (BA)  
14:30 ...Riyadh (SV)  
15:00 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)  
15:50 ...Vienna (OS)  
19:00 ...Dubai (EK)  
20:00 ...Beirut (ME)  
00:40 ...Beirut, Amsterdam (KL)  
13:10 ...Belgrade (JU)  
04:00 ...Rome (AZ)

Royal Wings (RW)  
08:00 Aqaba (from Marka Airport) (RW)  
09:30 Aqaba (from Marka Airport) (RW)  
21:30 Aqaba (from QAIA) (RW)





**REGENT PERFORMS FRIDAY PRAYERS:** HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, performs Friday prayers at Abu Nusseir Mosque. The sermon, which was delivered by Sheikh Rafiq Khatib, from the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, was dedicated to national unity. Sheikh Khatib reminded those attending of His Majesty King Hussein's efforts to maintain holy sites, particularly Al Aqsa Mosque. He praised the efforts exerted by Prince Hassan to defend the spirit of Islam in the international arenas. The sermon was also dedicated to King Hussein's speedy recovery and safe return home. The prayers were also attended by HRH Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad, King Hussein's advisor on Tribal Affairs, and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Abbadi (Photo by Boghos)

## Ministers lock horns over remarks about water crisis

By Alia Shukri Hamzeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Minister of Information Abdullah Ensour and Minister of Health Ashraf Kurdi appear to be engulfed in a media tug-of-war over the six-week-old water contamination crisis.

The issue was highlighted on Thursday, when Kurdi asked Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali to intervene after Ensour told a press briefing earlier this week that the resignation of the health minister hinged on the outcome of an investigation into the water crisis.

The issue began when Ensour asked the official Jordan News Agency, Petra, on Tuesday to run a denial of the comments he made about Kurdi which were carried by the Arabic daily Al Ra'i, newspaper editors said.

Petra quoted Ensour as saying he would take the paper to court and supply the judiciary with tapes of the two-hour meeting, they added.

Al Ra'i contacted Majali's office and told his aides that it could provide the court with a transcript of the same tape that carried Ensour's statement, they said.

Hours later, Petra ran an urgent news item asking subscribers to cancel the report carrying Ensour's denial.

"The urgent message was run after a government offi-

cial listened to the tape in question and discovered that Ensour had in fact said that Kurdi's resignation depended on the results of an investigation into the crisis," one editor told the Jordan Times.

The water crisis forced Minister of Water and Irrigation Munther Haddadin to resign last week.

Several local dailies recently stepped up criticism of both Ensour and Kurdi, claiming they mismanaged the crisis.

Ensour was serving as acting prime minister when the crisis broke on July 10 after residents of Amman, especially the western areas, complained of foul-smelling and discoloured water supplies.

While stating that water supplies were not contaminated, Kurdi urged citizens to boil water for a minute before drinking it — a recommendation that further added to a nationwide scare.

Independent journalists who taped Ensour's weekly press briefing on Monday, days after Majali returned home from visiting His Majesty King Hussein in the United States, insisted his comments about Kurdi were not taken out of context.

Before Haddadin's resignation, newspapers often quoted Haddadin and Kurdi as defending their ministries' efforts to ensure clean and safe water supplies.

The latest Ensour-Kurdi tussle reflects increased tension in the 23-member government, which has been facing growing public criticism over its handling of press freedoms, economic reforms and the water crisis.

King Hussein told Majali in a state of letters made public that those found responsible will be punished.

Meanwhile, Kurdi told Shihan weekly he was ready to cooperate with a government committee investigating the water crisis.

"If the committee asks for me, I and the entire ministry will be ready to face it with documents," he said on Thursday.

Responding to a question, he denied he had submitted his resignation.

"I have not submitted my resignation and I will not, because I see no reason that prompts such a move. All my ministry's reports were accurate," he added.

He said Ensour was aware of the water crisis from the minute it unfolded and added that his ministry was the party to discover the presence of large numbers of worms in water supplies.

The investigating committee, grouping several officials and experts, is due to submit its report on August 20. It was formed upon orders from HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, earlier this month.

## International rights groups send further appeals to Senate over draft press law

By Amy Henderson  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two international press freedoms groups today extend one of their final appeals to legislators to reject or substantially amend the draft press and publications law now before the Senate.

Human Rights Watch (HRW) and Reporters Sans Frontiers (RSF), in two letters to the president of the Upper House, Zeid Rifai, urged the Senate, where debate on the draft should begin tomorrow, to reconsider the draft altogether or amend the articles in the draft.

In a press release attached to the letter, Hanny Megally, executive director of the Middle East and North Africa division of the New York-based HRW, said that the draft "is an anachronism."

"News and other information from around the world is freely available on the Internet, but the government is attempting to censor what local newspapers can publish and control what books and foreign newspapers Jordanians can read," Mr. Megally said.

HRW, governed and advised by a host of prominent international journalists and human rights activists, said it was "deeply disappointed" with the draft press and publications law.

"If the law is enacted without substantial revisions, we fear that it will pose a direct threat to freedom of expression in

Jordan, and will place press freedom and academic freedom at particular risk," the letter to the Senate said.

The Lower House of Parliament last week finished its second reading of the draft press law, after substantial amendments were introduced to the government's proposed legislation by the House's National Guidance Committee. The plenary made further amendments to the draft, such as dropping a requirement for accuracy in news reporting on the grounds that the availability of information was a prerequisite for "accurate" reporting. However, it tended to side with the government on most, if not all, of the most crucial points in the law.

It upheld the government's request for a categorical prohibition of a range of vaguely worded topics. For example, Article 5 prohibits the publication of anything that "contradicts the principles of freedom and national responsibility, human rights and the values of the Arab Islamic Nation."

Article 37 provides an additional comprehensive ban on 14 topics, including anything that concerns the Armed Forces or security services; disparages the King or the Royal family; harms national unity, instigates strikes, sit-ins or public gatherings; degrades, libels or slanders the heads of Arab, Islamic or friendly states; or shakes confidence in the national currency, along with a host of others. Journal-

ists who violate these bans are liable for penalties ranging from JD5,000 to JD10,000.

The court, under the draft as it stands, also has the right to order the closure of a newspaper while any case against it is pending. This is the first time in the history of Jordan's press that such a rigorous article has been introduced to any press law, including those that existed under martial law, which ended in 1989.

Journalists, editors and human rights activists charge that these terms are so vaguely worded that the articles can be used to harass journalists who report critically on domestic and foreign policy issues.

HRW contends that Jordan, as a signatory to the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), must more clearly define these content bans, rather than leaving editors and journalists to speculate as to their meaning. The organisation said the articles are designed to impose a regime of self-censorship on the press.

It also claims that the draft violates the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights, to which Jordan is a signatory. According to the ICCPR, such restrictions on the press must be "necessary" and narrowly framed, while the burden of proving "necessity" lies with the state.

HRW also noted Article 39, which allows judicial authorities to ban reporting on trials and criminal investigations if

such reporting would "influence" the proceedings. The ICCPR permits such bans only within very specific boundaries for reasons of morals, public order or national security in a democratic society, or when the interest of the private lives of the [concerned] parties requires [a ban], or when the court finds an extraordinary circumstance "where publicity would prejudice the interests of justice."

The government, when drafting the law, did not limit its text to newspapers and magazines. Instead, it appeared to compose the law with the intention of placing a comprehensive regime of control over the entire flow of information in the Kingdom.

The draft prohibits the printing or circulation of books in Jordan without government approval. This applies to imported material as well as local. HRW has asserted that these articles "open the door for the state to ban books that include material on the prohibited topics in Articles 5 and 37."

Additionally, under the draft, research institutes and public opinion polling centres are no longer allowed to receive financial assistance from Jordanian or foreign donors to undertake study or research projects without the approval of the minister of information. The article will effectively allow the executive to control the work of most institutions in the country, since they are

heavily reliant on foreign funding.

HRW said the provision constitutes "excessive government interference in internal affairs of non-governmental organisations by shifting control over [programmes and funding] to the state."

RSF concluded its letter to Rifai by saying that the law, if adopted as written, will "be in total contradiction to the democratisation process undertaken by Jordan."

HRW and RSF, along with the Committee to Protect Journalists in New York and the London-based Article 19, have issued dozens of critical statements on the executive's interference in media and information affairs since the government in May 1997 enacted temporary amendments to the 1993 Press and Publications Law.

The Senate will be the last official body to read the law. Any amendments by the Upper House should be returned to the Lower House for approval, according to the Constitution. Otherwise, the draft, when approved, must then be enacted by Royal Decree.

The Upper House is generally not known for making substantial amendments to legislation endorsed by the elected representatives of the Lower House, and journalists and editors said last week that they were not hopeful that the Senate would make any significant changes to the draft's text.

## JPA condemns attack on journalist, asks for release of detained editor

By Alia Shukri Hamzeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan Press Association (JPA) has condemned last week's attack on Nahed Hattar, chief editor of the Arabic weekly Al Mithaq, and criticised the manner in which the chief editor of Jordan's only satirical weekly, "Abed Rabbo," was arrested.

In a statement published in the Arabic press on Friday, JPA President Seif Sharif said that the JPA council has "with regret noticed recurrent attacks on fellow journalists and writers by unidentified assailants," and that it condemns such measures in a country governed by law.

"We call on all these parties to stop resorting to physical violence and to go to the association or the courts if a conflict arises," he added.

HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, also criticised Sunday's attack on Hattar. "In Jordan... we do not wish to see any person taking the law into their own hands or taking advantage of

the King's absence to tamper with the nation's security and stability," the Regent said at the opening ceremony of Al Fuhais Arts Festival Thursday.

Four unidentified assailants attacked Hattar as he was returning home in Jabal Hussein last Sunday with his wife and eight-year-old son.

Hattar, a leftist and a vehement critic of many past and present government officials, said he felt unconscious after being beaten.

In a statement issued the day after the attack, Hattar blamed the attack on a former prime minister, the PLO's Fateh movement, a former government minister, and the Israeli embassy in Amman.

He said the four parties must have been angered by his recent articles published in the paper and attacking them.

A coalition of opposition political parties and the Arab Organisation for Human Rights in Jordan condemned the attack last week and sent a message to Prince Hassan seeking his intervention in

the case, saying that the attack marred the image of the country and its stability.

In another development, the U.S.-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) also sent a letter to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali condemning the recent attack on Hattar.

The CPJ called on government officials to hold thorough investigations and to bring the assailants to justice.

Hattar has appeared in court several times in the past years on charges of violating articles of the press law, and the water pollution crisis, which according to analysts may have harmed Jordan's image abroad.

The paper's managing editor said it has contacted several human rights organisations as well as Lower House deputies to help ensure Emoush's release and put an end to such "recurrent measures against journalists."

Emoush's wife told the Jordan Times yesterday that so far no reasons have been given for her husband's arrest and no one has been able to contact him.

## Women's group to build public park on former garbage dump

AMMAN (Petra) — A local women's group has assumed responsibility for transforming part of an old garbage dump into a public garden in what is seen as a pioneering step on the part of women's organisations in Jordan.

Nadia Masoud, president of the Productive Women Society (PWS), which is sponsoring the project in the east Amman district of Marka, said the society is receiving help from the Amman Municipality, which donated 50 dunums of land for the project, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which will provide \$46,000 to partly finance the scheme.

The Ministry of Agriculture will provide tree saplings and tree-planting expertise, while the Jordan Environment Society will donate equipment for a drip-irrigation system for the trees to be planted on the site, she added.

Masoud said the 50 dunums of land on which the park will be set up is part of a 173-dunum plot of land that served as a garbage dump until it was shut down by the municipality in 1989.

The project aims at creating a park for the benefit of the local inhabitants, whom Masoud said are expected to make contributions to the estimated \$150,000 project.

She said the two-year project will include green playing grounds for children, a football field, and areas for recreational activities.

Masoud said the PWS has completed the topographic, environmental and field studies and was ready to begin the project.

She added that the society will pursue efforts to raise sufficient funds from Jordan's main organisations and firms for the "much-needed" facility in Marka.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Official denies reports on W. Bank withdrawal plan

AMMAN (Petra) — An official at the Prime Ministry denied media reports published Thursday that Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali told the Lower House of Parliament that the government advised the Palestinians to accept an Israeli withdrawal offer of 10 per cent from the West Bank. "The statement attributed to the prime minister by this newspaper, that Jordan advised the Palestinians to accept the Israeli proposal to withdraw from 10 per cent of the West Bank with three per cent as reserves, is baseless and does not conform to Jordan's supportive stand vis-à-vis the Palestinians," said the official, who was not named.

### Srouf leaves for Tehran

AMMAN (Petra) — The speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, Sa'd Hayel Srouf, on Friday left for Tehran on a four-day official visit in reply to an invitation from his Iranian counterpart, Abdullah Nateq-Nouri. Srouf will hold talks with Iranian President Mohammad Khatami and other Iranian officials on bilateral relations.

### Seminar on drug addiction ends

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar on drug addiction in Jordan concluded recently with recommendations for a national campaign involving the public and private sectors to deal with the issue. The three-day seminar, which ended on Wednesday, called for reviving the work of a national committee on fighting drugs, which would direct its attention toward involving the country's various institutions in programmes to help tackle this issue, according to a statement issued following the seminar's conclusion. The seminar also urged the government to monitor public cafes where people smoke argila (water pipe) and other locations suspected of attracting drug addicts and called on the Ministry of Education to introduce curricula to raise awareness among students on the economic, health and social dangers inherent in drugs.

## what's

### CONCERTS

\* Musical performance by Nadine Balbeisi (soprano), and Mohammad Othman Sidqi (piano) at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.  
\* Concert by the Arab Jordanian Ansar Party marking His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the Throne at the Royal Cultural Centre at 6:00 p.m.

### SHABIB FESTIVAL/ZARQA

\* Performance by the Greater Amman Band for Popular Art at 6:30 p.m.

\* Poetry recital at 7:30 p.m.  
\* Performance by Samarra'i Group at 7:50 p.m.  
\* Poetry recital at 8:30 p.m.  
\* Concert by Hisham Abbas at 9:10 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

\* Summer display of products at the Jordan Design and Trade Centre/Noor Al Hussein Foundation, off Wadi Sagra (Tel. 569-9141/2), until Aug. 31.  
\* "Miniatures in Humanities and Environment" by Walid Nasrallah at Orfali Art Gallery, Um Utheina, until Aug. 25 (Tel. 5526932).

## Local well owner donates water supplies in Amman to help needy citizens

By Mohammad Ben Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Citizens are flocking to a fixed water reservoir donated by a Jordanian philanthropist to fill jerry cans and bottles due to cuts in the already-scant domestic water supply brought on by the six-week-old water contamination crisis.

The donor, who owns a private water well — a main source of water supplies since the crisis — was quoted in local press reports as saying he decided to install the JD2,000 water reservoir on a busy street in the heart of Amman because of the suffering of fellow citizens.

Dozens of men, women and children, defying the blazing sun and sweltering heat, lined up near the tank for free supplies.

"I can't afford to buy bottled mineral water for my eight-member family, and I have not even been able to shave my beard for a week [due to short water supplies]," said Mohammad Khalil, a government employee who earns around JD100 a month. "This donation is a gift from God."

Khalil and others standing near the green-coloured water tank said they were angered by the government's handling of the crisis, which began

on July 10 when Amman residents, especially in the western areas, began complaining of foul-smelling and discoloured domestic water supplies.

Many living there said nothing has been flowing from the tap for the past five weeks — save several intermittent doses — as operational problems sharply reduced the handling capacity at the Zai Water Treatment Plant (ZWP), the main source of supplies to Amman.

Another Amman resident who arrived at the scene of the donation said he had to drive for 20 kilometres to be able to fill one jerry can. He added that the crisis had strained his limited income, reducing his ability to buy bottled water or to order tankers selling private water supplies.

"It is impossible for me to spend half of my salary to buy water," said Abdullah Ali. "This crisis was all we needed at a time when most citizens are suffering from poverty and economic austerity."

He said water supplied by tankers at government-set rates of JD1.250 per cubic metre last week was consumed by his nine-member family in two days.

He has asked for fresh supplies but

must wait for days because of a waiting list, while affluent Jordanians buy from other suppliers at soaring black market rates.

"If this situation continues, I will have to take leave from work and move with my children to our hometown of Karak to ensure continued fresh water supplies," said Ali. Karak is 85 kilometres south of Amman.

Former Minister of Water and Irrigation Munther Haddadin resigned over the crisis — initially blamed on unusual levels of algae found in water caused by the high temperatures, but later said to be due to operational and human errors at the ZWP.

Minister of Health Ashraf Kurdi further confused citizens by asking them to boil water for several minutes before drinking it as a precautionary measure.

Back at the donated reservoir, a woman said she needed supplies to wash her dishes to be able to serve breakfast to her six children. "This crisis has forced us to go back to primitive lifestyles," she added.

Many residents complained the crisis had harmed their personal hygiene and left the country's water and sewage networks functioning without adequate supplies.



## Cambodian opposition member killed as vote controversy continues

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — A leading Cambodian opposition party claimed one of its activists, a nephew of a newly-elected member of parliament, was killed Friday in political murder designed to look like a traffic accident.

The incident occurred shortly after the Constitutional Council refused to accept opposition appeals of election complaints rejected by poll authorities, contributing to the possibility of a governmental crisis.

The Sam Rainsy Party said the death of Pung Sokhom, 25, followed repeated harassment and attempted bribery of his uncle Monh Siyunn, president of the Phnom Penh branch of the party and MP elect, designed to get him to join the de facto ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) of strongman Hun Sen.

"This was not an accident," Monh Siyunn told reporters, describing witness accounts of the incident in which his nephew, leaving the Sam Rainsy Party headquarters on a small motorbike, was pushed into an oncoming truck by a white car which then sped away.

"It is too much of a coincidence," he said, adding the accident occurred after he had turned down inducements of cash, bodyguards, a new car and a cellular phone to betray the party and was threatened.

Monh Siyunn's allegations of bribery and threats were printed Friday in opposition newspapers and

human rights officials confirmed they had spoken with him and were looking into the case.

Police officials immediately denied there was any suspicion of political motive in the accident, saying the truck driver was now in custody as he had tried to flee the scene and the vehicle had been impounded.

"This had nothing to do with politics," said Kong Saran, the deputy chief of Phnom Penh police in charge of traffic and public security.

He added that a police official would appear on television later in the day to explain the circumstances.

Sam Rainsy, as well as his opposition ally deposed co-premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh, leader of the royalist FUNCINPEC party, have accused the CPP of threatening their members and encouraging defections of their MPs-elect following last month's election.

A CPP official "absolutely" denied the accusations, saying he was unaware of the traffic accident.

"Absolutely not," said Prak Sokhom, a senior advisor to Hun Sen when asked if the party was trying to buy off opposition members.

Sani Rainsy, however, accused the CPP and, in particular, Hun Sen, of being desperate enough to try anything to keep full control of the country.

According to unofficial preliminary election results, the CPP is set to win 64 of the 122 parliamentary seats up for grabs, a majority, but

not the two-thirds needed to form a government on its own.

Sam Rainsy and FUNCINPEC, set to win 15 and 43 seats respectively, have refused as premature Hun Sen's offers to form a coalition, citing hundreds of outstanding complaints of vote-fraud and polling irregularities.

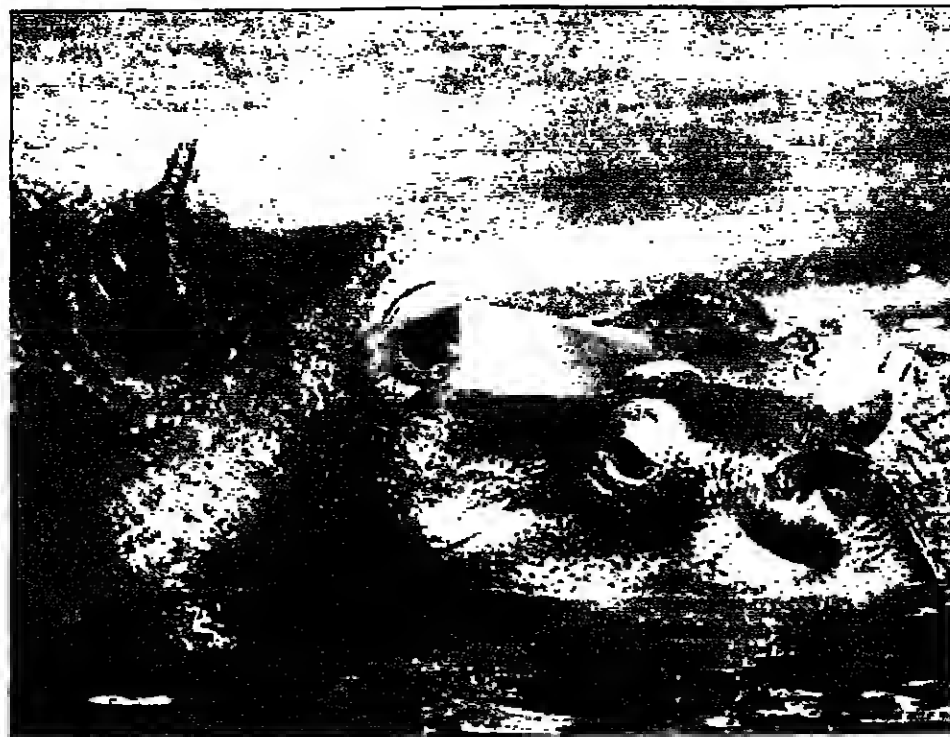
Clerks at the Constitutional Council, Cambodia's highest appeals body, however, turned away a good percentage of the appeals — which deal with some of the opposition's most serious charges of vote fraud and irregularities — saying they had not been submitted properly.

The clerks would not speak to reporters but could be heard telling Sam Rainsy Friday that most of the appeals could not be accepted as the National Election Committee (NEC) had not formally rejected them.

Tuesday, after summarily dismissing as baseless more than two-thirds of the opposition's complaints, the NEC declared its work complete and formally rejected remaining complaints, citing lack of evidence.

The appeals accepted by the Constitutional Council appeared to be the ones officially rejected by the NEC Tuesday, prompting Sam Rainsy to allege obfuscation on the part of the council.

"They say I have to wait for an official rejection from the NEC, but if a complaint is not dealt with by NEC, I have the right to appeal," he said.



A new born hippopotamus swims next to its mother 'Helvetia' on a sunny day in Basle's zoo. The young hippo, which has not been given a name yet, was born early August 9 (Reuters photo)

## Before Starr and Congress, Clinton faces the biggest decision

WASHINGTON (AP) — As a special prosecutor nears a decision on whether to send an impeachment report to U.S. legislators, President Bill Clinton and a small circle of legal advisers are weighing exactly how he will describe his relationship with a former White House intern to a grand jury.

The sources added that only Clinton, the first lady, private lawyers David Kendall and Nicole Seligman and former Commerce Secretary Mickey Kantor, now advising the president as a private lawyer, likely would know the final outcome. All five have refused to comment.

What everyone agrees is that Clinton's answers to the independent counsel's questions carry the highest stakes: the possibility of impeachment proceedings that could hamper or even cripple that last two years of his presidency.

The source, who spoke Thursday on condition of anonymity, said under this option Clinton could signal he had something more than the ordinary relationship with Lewinsky but refuse to give specific or graphic details, arguing it was a private matter that was not the business of prosecutors.

"It's something being discussed both inside the (preparation) room and outside," the source said, cautioning that all the preparations were fluid and no decisions had been made.

Other advisers say they are aware that option had been

considered by advisers but cautioned the president faced ideas from a variety of sources, including standing steadfastly by his original denial when he testified Monday to Kenneth Starr's grand jury on closed-circuit TV.

The sources added that only Clinton, the first lady, private lawyers David Kendall and Nicole Seligman and former Commerce Secretary Mickey Kantor, now advising the president as a private lawyer, likely would know the final outcome. All five have refused to comment.

What everyone agrees is that Clinton's answers to the independent counsel's questions carry the highest stakes: the possibility of impeachment proceedings that could hamper or even cripple that last two years of his presidency.

But three sources said Lewinsky contends she never was asked outright by Clinton to lie under oath.

Prosecutors are investigating whether Clinton committed perjury in the Jones case in January when he denied the sexual relationship with Lewinsky, and conspired with

the intern or others to obstruct the Jones lawsuit.

For two weeks, national Republican and Democratic figures have urged Clinton to admit to a sexual relationship with Lewinsky as a way of sparing himself and the country from impeachment proceedings.

But closer to the president, advisers have recommended a series of more complex options that range from standing firmly behind his denial or refusing to discuss the nature of the relationship to giving some sort of acknowledgement — from a complete apology to a partial admission — he had a personal relationship with the former intern.

Most advisers say privately they are resigned to the fact that Starr will forward the issue to Congress, where future strategy could have as much to do with politics as legalities.

Starr is expected to narrow any such report solely to evidence of perjury, obstruction of justice and witness tampering in the Lewinsky case, rather than the other aspects of his Whitewater investigation. His staff already has begun drafting possible language for such a report.

But no decisions are expected to be made until after Clinton, the last central witness to provide testimony, gives his account to the grand jury.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### SPD still leads Kohl's Christian Unions in the polls

BONN (AFP) — Gerhard Schroeder's social democrat SPD party holds a three-point lead over Chancellor Helmut Kohl's CDU-CSU Christian Unions, 45 days ahead of the general elections on Sept. 27, according to a poll published Friday in the German daily Die Welt. The breakdown of results indicates that if the election were held now, the SPD would get 41 per cent of the vote, followed by the CDU-CSU with 38 per cent, the Green party on 6 per cent and the Free Democrats (FDP) 5 per cent. The two far right parties, the Republicans and Gerhard Frey's DVU party came in with two and one per cent respectively. The poll of 1,000 people showed unemployment, social problems and security were the top concerns, in that order. In a similar poll 10 days ago, the SPD recorded 40 per cent of votes, again three points ahead of the Christian Unions. The FDP and the Greens both got 6 per cent.

### Police link Protestant paramilitaries to shooting of Catholics

LONDONDERRY, Northern Ireland (AFP) — Police in Northern Ireland Friday said they suspected the Ulster Defence Association (UDA) was behind the shooting of two Roman Catholics in the province last month. The UDA, one of the main Protestant paramilitary organisations, is officially observing a ceasefire, a position which allows for the early release of its members in prison under the April 10 peace agreement.

### Mars meteorite contains no traces of life

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Martian meteorite ALH-84001 which NASA claimed carried traces of primordial life contains no such material, researchers from Hawaii University said in a study published Friday. What NASA specialists took to be fossil evidence of Martian microbes 3.6 billion years old, head researcher Ed Scott said, are formations caused by a high-temperature impact too extreme for any living organism. The study, published in Meteoritic and Planetary Science, refutes the conclusions drawn by a National Aeronautics and Space Administration team headed by David McKay at the Johnson Space Centre in Houston, Texas. McKay's researchers analysed an apple-size Martian meteorite found in August 1996 in the Antarctic, where it had fallen some 13,000 years ago. They theorised that microscopic grooves criss-crossing the structure had been formed by microorganisms known as carbonates. "We conclude that the existing carbonates formed at high temperatures by impact heating of carbonates that had formed earlier," Scott said in the research paper.

### Landslides claim 40 lives in northern India

LUCKNOW, India (R) — At least 40 people have died in the past four days in landslides caused by incessant rains in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, state government officials said Friday. Earlier, the Star Television, quoting state officials, had said that at least 58 people had died due to landslides in the Himalayan region. State officials said the army had been called to assist state authorities in relief operations in the Garhwal Hills, about 750 km northwest of the state capital, Lucknow. The worst-hit areas were four villages in Ukhimath region of Rudrapur district from where 15 bodies were recovered Thursday, state officials said. People in the Chamoli district also died in landslides. "More casualties are not ruled out," Naresh Dayal, principal secretary in the Uttar Pradesh government, told Reuters. He said communication breakdowns and traffic disruption on the main routes were affecting timely information from reaching the state headquarters in Lucknow.

### Singaporeans sent to gallows for Bulgarian beauty's grisly death

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Two Singaporean men were sentenced to death by a court Friday after being found guilty for the gruesome murder of a former Bulgarian beauty queen, local television reported. Iordanka Apostolova, 27, who came to Singapore in 1996, was lured and found drowned in a canal in January. Her murder received wide publicity here. Justice Kan Ting Chiu sentenced Shaiful Edham Adam, 22, a former commodities broker, and Norishyam Mohammad Ali, 26, a former lorry driver, to death after hearing arguments from state and defence lawyers during the 10-day trial. Shaiful and Norishyam were friends of the victim, whose death was believed linked to a dispute over the sale of a car. During the trial, each had accused the other of striking the fatal blows, newspapers reported. State lawyer Francis Tseng had told the court in his opening arguments that Apostolova had suffered a slow and painful death at the hands of her murderers. She had lived for more than a day after being slashed eight times, suffocated with a cushion and having detergent shoved down her throat. She even survived for hours when left in a carton sealed tight with masking tape. In the end, she drowned after her assailants tied a bag of stones around her ankles and kicked her into a canal.

### Bomb scare on ferry in Sydney

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Police blew up a package suspected of containing a bomb on a passenger ferry at the main passenger wharf in Sydney Friday. Authorities refused to say whether the package held explosives. The suspicious package was discovered aboard the ferry Sirius mid-morning, as it travelled from Neutral Bay on Sydney's north shore to Circular Quay, in the heart of the city, a police spokesman said. About 30 passengers aboard the ferry were evacuated and the boat was isolated at a mooring near the International Passenger Terminal in Sydney Cove. Emergency services cordoned off the immediate vicinity and the busy Circular Quay ferry terminal complex was closed to harbour traffic for more than two hours. Bomb disposal specialists detonated the package after about three hours and the wharf was reopened. The bomb scare comes as the city is preparing to host the 2000 Olympic Games, and authorities have been on the lookout for possible security threats to the harbour. Special ferries will serve as public transport from the wharf to the key Olympics site, and athletes and dignitaries will also travel this way. Inspector Garry Smith of the Bomb Squad refused to confirm whether the device that was destroyed had been home.

## 'CIS ready to prevent Taliban incursion'

NOVGOROD, Russia (AFP) — Russia and former Soviet states bordering Afghanistan will prevent the Taliban militia crossing their frontiers, President Boris Yeltsin said Friday.

"We have decided to prevent the Taliban crossing and I think we are able to do so," said Yeltsin, speaking during a visit to this northwestern town.

"The threat to security from the Taliban, which is approaching the southern borders of the CIS, exists but Moscow, Dushanbe and Tashkent are capable of opposing it," Yeltsin said, quoted by the ITAR-TASS news agency.

Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) — a loose-knit successor to the USSR — share a more than 2,000-kilometre border with Afghanistan, where the hard-line Islamic militia is pushing north, overrunning strongholds of the anti-Taliban alliance.

Tajikistan and Uzbekistan have put border forces on maximum alert. Russia is sending troop reinforcements to the Tajik border.

Russia recognises President Bismillah Khan Rahmani, ousted by the Taliban two years ago, as the authority in Afghanistan.

Russia has warned Afghanistan could become a hotbed of international terrorism and Moscow and its allies fear Islamic fundamentalist propaganda could destabilise central Asia and Muslim communities in Russia.

Russia Thursday appealed to the international community to intervene in Afghanistan, accusing the Taliban militia of an "ethnic massacre" in overrunning the city of Mazar-i-Sharif, an opposition stronghold, Saturday.

The former Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in December 1979 to shore up the pro-Soviet regime in Kabul. It had more than 100,000 troops in the country until a phased withdrawal in 1988 and 1989.

## Congo capital without power as rebels control supply

KINSHASA (AFP) — Kinshasa, capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), was without electricity Friday after rebels claimed control of the country's main power station.

Rebels said Thursday they had taken control of the hydroelectric dam at Inga, more than 400 kilometres southwest of the capital in this vast central African country.

The Tutsi-led rebellion against President Laurent Kabila's regime began in the eastern DRC on Aug. 2. Rebels now claim control of at least one-third of the country, including the narrow western seaboard.

Electricity supplies to Kinshasa and Brazzaville, the capital of Congo lying across the River Congo, were cut off at 1400 GMT Thursday. Both cities get

their power from the 1,750-megawatt Inga power station.

In Kinshasa Friday, the outage caused radio and television stations to remain off the air, while several businesses were closed, service stations were shut down and public transport was disrupted. Businesses with generators continued to function.

Construction began on the dam in 1968 under former dictator Mobutu Sese Seko, in what was then Zaïre. It began operations in 1972 but was finally completed in 1987.

The Inga River dam also provides power for the mines of the Gécamine company, the largest mining group in the DRC, the southwestern Bas-Congo province and parts of the southeastern Katanga province.

## Over 32 Sierra Leone rebels killed in ECOMOG operations

FREETOWN (AFP) — The West African intervention force ECOMOG has recaptured two important diamond towns from rebels in Sierra Leone, killing 32 rebels in one and an unspecified number in the other, sources said Friday.

The ECOMOG forces, backed by civil defence forces, killed 32 rebels in the capture of the eastern town of Gandurahun Thursday, according to defence sources in the southern city of Bo, who said mopping-up operations were under way.

Gandurahun, strategically located between the Kono and Kailahun diamond centres, had served as a

springboard for rebel attacks on both. In another operation, ECOMOG chased rebels out of Yamandu, in Kono district, said the local brigade commander, Colonel Rafu Adeshina.

He said the rebels, who had held Yamandu for more than four months, suffered heavy casualties but he did not give figures.

Since toppling the military regime of Major Johnny Paul Koroma in Freetown and restoring President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah to power in March, ECOMOG has continued to face resistance from junta forces in several parts of the country.

## China coal mine blasts kill 32

BEIJING (R) — Two gas explosions in small coal mines in northern China have killed 32 people and injured six, the Workers' Daily said Friday.

Rescue workers had saved 40 miners and found 25 bodies in a village-run coal mine in Shanxi province's Zhenyuan county after the blast on Aug. 10. Four miners were injured, it said.

One survivor said he felt hot temperatures and still air in the pit before the blast. The cause of the explosion was under investigation, it

said. The blast was the fourth this year in the country's 380 village-run coal mines, many of which had no licences and were run with no safety equipment, it said.

In a separate report, the newspaper said six farmers were killed in a gas explosion in a privately run coal mine in northwestern Ningxia's Pingluo county on Aug. 8.

The foreman of the mine also died and two other colleagues were injured from toxic fumes when they rushed in to rescue the miners, ignorant of safety precautions, the report said.

Police had detained Chen Fulu, who had illegally opened the mine, it said. It gave no more details.

At least 134 miners were killed earlier this year in a coal pit blast in northeastern Liaoning and spate of explosions in central Henan province.

Accidents in China's poorly regulated coal mines killed more than 2,000 miners last year, up nearly 30 per cent from the previous year, official media have said.

## Dyke bursts in central China city kill 78, injure thousands

BEIJING (AFP) — Yangtze River flooding has killed 78 people and injured thousands of others in central China's Jiujiang city since June, a municipal government spokesman said Friday.

Two major dyke bursts hit the city last week as flood levels were peaking, but officials ranking all the way up to Jiangxi provincial governor Shu Shengyuan had denied any casualties resulted.

The spokesman said a total of 28,600 people fell ill or were injured by flooding in the city — located in an especially flood-prone section of the Yangtze.

A total of 3.46 million residents of the city were affected, he added.

A main river dyke burst last Friday, losing a deluge that put a newly industrialised suburban area in western

Jiujiang under up to four metres of water.

It took hundreds of emergency workers five days of round-the-clock efforts to stop up the 60-metre gap. Soldiers and armed police at one point used explosives to plug the breach, but the turbulent waters had swept aside one of the barges, widening the gap.

Another breach overwhelmed a dyke in Jiujiang district's Jiangzhou/chen island just days earlier.

While official reports said only two died in that incident, Chinese journalists said they saw scores of bodies floating and piled up in the area.

Throughout this summer's flooding disaster in China, officials have typically hid the toll extent of casualties and damage from indi-

vidual incidents, preferring to issue general estimates for large regions at later dates.

The official death toll from the floods across the country, which began unusually early in May and until recently was focused in southern and central China, stands at 2,000.

The official Xinhua news agency reported Friday that 3,000 residents evacuated immediately after last Friday's breach had begun returning to their homes in the western part of the city.

Troops pumped 1,000 cubic metres of stone and clay to reinforce the framework filling the breach, it said.

Local experts are mulling whether or not to build a third defensive dam in the city.

Falling water levels on the Yangtze Friday brought a temporary reprieve after weeks of high alert in central China.



Albanians sit in a tractor during an offensive against displaced during an offensive against their badly damaged

## Two U.S. to meet

WASH. (AP) — The U.S. ambassador in Macedonia, Christopher Hill, and Kosovo Albanian political leader Ibrahim Rugova are expected to meet in the capital of Kosovo, Pristina, this week, U.S. officials said.

The meeting is part of a series of talks between the two sides, U.S. officials said. Hill is expected to meet with Rugova on Tuesday.

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WHEN we draw the balance sheet of India's achievements in the post-independence era, the element to be taken in general account, agriculture, science and technology, industry, telecommunication, defence, education, railways, defence, almost everything is great, indeed, unimpeachable. But, the only non-descript, colossal economy, the greatest in the world, is now the fifth most advanced with the third best technically-trained manpower.

One prefer to classify this non-Asian sub-continent as the largest economy in terms of manpower. India's Parity, Geographically, India is the seventh largest in area, demographically it is the second largest in population.

Such a giant nation has found its rightful place in the comity of nations and be an equal player in space technology, industry and science. Recent policy initiatives are re-making this so-called poor, debt-ridden giant integrates globally. High export growth and diversification of manufactured exports are adequate testimony of India's emerging industrial and competitive abilities, its muscle, strength and pay off in the balance resulting from the recent policy initiatives of liberalization. Nearly 50% of its \$2.6 bil-

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## India Tea

### 'Golden beverage for golden health'

TEA IS the most widely used beverage in the world today. Three distinct varieties of teas are grown in India. This 'Distinguished Triad' comprises of teas are grown in Assam in North East India, Darjeeling at the foothills of the Himalayas and the Nilgiri Blue Mountains in South India. Each of these three varieties has its own distinctive characteristics.

Darjeeling tea, grown on the slopes nesting close to the mighty Himalayas, famed for its delicate exotic flavour and aroma. Assam tea is unequalled for its strength and full bodied liquor. Nilgiri tea flourishes on the gentle slopes of the fascinating Blue Mountains of South India and is characterised by brightness and fragrance.

In different parts of the world tea is prepared differently. In the Arab World, tea is generally taken without milk but sugar is added which is known as Chai Suleimani. Sometimes mint is also added for flavour. In India, most people use milk and sugar with tea. Similarly, every part of the world has its own way and tradition of preparing tea. However, three important considerations in making an enjoyable cup of tea are — (a) type of tea used, (2) kind of water used and (3) the manner of brewing. The type of tea used, of course, depends upon one's preference. The important thing is that the larger the size of the tea leaves, the longer it takes to brew. A teaspoon of orthodox tea should be used for every cup required. The normal dictum is that 1 spoon for every cup and 1 for the pot. So if 5 cups of tea are required put 6 teaspoonful of tea in the pot. In case of CTC tea, the quantity should be reduced by about half.

The water used for preparing tea must have low iron or chemical content and must not be chlorinated. Cleanly collected rain water gives outstanding result. Best tea is made with water which has come to vigorous boil. The ideal period of infusion is between 3 to 5 minutes. The water should not be over-boiled. Prolonged boiling of water removes the dissolved air and makes it flat in taste. Tea is best brewed in tea pots made of porcelain, earthenware, silver or stainless steel. Aluminium vessel should not be used because it turns tea blue. Tea pot should be rinsed with hot water before tea is brewed.

Tea cosies to keep the pot warm should best be avoided. They help to continue the extraction process to the pot leading to qualitative deterioration just as it is not advisable to re-warm tea which has gone cold. It is always better to prepare a fresh cup. Tea is certainly not a drink to be had from thermos flask. If the infused tea is kept warm for a prolonged time there is condensation of

polyphenol. That explains the peculiar taste of tea poured from a thermos flask.

These days new variants of tea have hit the market. Instant tea or iced tea have become very popular particularly in the West. Canned tea is also being marketed as a natural soft drink. Different types of flavours are also



being added to tea. So today we have teas flavoured with lemon, strawberry, chocolate, papaya, forest-flowers etc. to the market. Another variety is herbal tea. With increasing health consciousness among the people, herbs with various medicinal property are added to tea. The growing popularity of herbal tea in recent times is phenomenal.

Tea production in India has registered increase during 1997 to 810.6 million kgs. as compared to 780 million kgs. during 1996. The 1998 production is estimated to be around 825 million kgs.

At present India exports about 25% of its production. In 1997 India exported 203 million kgs. to all the major tea-consuming countries of the world. In 1998, Indian tea exports are estimated to have gone up to around 210 million kgs. Demand for Indian tea in the international market is growing. Because of its quality and strength Indian tea is considered indispensable by the blenders of most of the leading international brands. Pure Indian tea, of course, continues to be the ultimate choice of the most discerning connoisseurs throughout the world.

## 48 years of Indian Republic (1950-98)

WHEN WE draw the balance sheet of India's achievements in the post-independence era, the achievement be they in general economy, agriculture, science and technology, industry, telecommunications, education, aviation, railways, defence, almost everything are great, indeed awe-inspiring. From a sleepy, non-descript, colonial economy, to the greatest in the world. It is now the 10th most industrialised with the third largest technically-trained manpower.

IMF prefers to classify this South Asian sub-continent as the sixth largest economy in terms of Purchasing Power Parity. Geographically India is the seventh largest in area; demographically it is the second largest in population.

Such a giant nation has found its rightful place in the comity of nations and be an equal player in science, technology, industry and trade. Recent policy initiatives are now ensuring this so-called poor, underdeveloped giant integrates globally. High export growth rates and diversification of manufactured exports are adequate testimony of India's emerging industrial and competitive abilities, its intrinsic strength and pay off in globalisation resulting from the recent policy initiatives of liberalisation. Nearly 80% of its \$26 bil-

lion export earnings are from manufactured goods such as gems and jewellery, ready-made garments, cotton yarn and fabrics. Compare this with 1950 when primary produce such as tea and jute were major foreign exchange earners.

Such remarkable progress has been achieved not overnight but through concerted and assiduous build up of science and technology of industrial development. The first prime minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, was fully committed to building scientific temper, R&D labs, technical institutions — what he in common parlance preferred to call "modern temples" for national development.

Today India has over 2500 S&T institutions, 1200 in-house R&D units in industrial undertakings with over 300,000 persons. 1% of GNP is spent on S&T development. As a result the country is one of the few nations spearheading hi-tech and newer frontiers of science, be it space, oceanography, biotechnology, tissue culture, or nuclear science.

India entered the field of nuclear technology in early fifties. By 1997 India achieved technical competence in all aspects of reactor technology and nuclear fuel cycle ranging from atomic mineral exploration to nuclear waste management.

Space programme formally launched in 1972 has helped the country build indigenous capabilities by the nineties in space satellites, launch vehicles and associated ground systems for providing space-based service in communications, meteorology, resource survey etc. Spatial data technology is employed for micro-level national resource planning in areas such as land potential evaluation digital terrain analysis, micro-wave remote sensing, rainfall-runoff estimation, mass movement modelling etc.

In oceanography and geophysical research India is among the global frontrunners. Two permanent stations, Mahe and Dakshin Gangotri, have been established in the Antarctica besides sending off one dozen expeditions. Concerted efforts have ensured development in science and development in industry.

Modern electronic industry is one such industry extremely sensitive to developments in science and technology. The electronic industry in India is growing at 35% and shall soon be world class. More than Rs. 40,000 million worth of consumer electronic items are produced annually. At the time of becoming republic in 1950 there was no electronic industry.

In the area of telecommunications the nation have developed a network of 20,455 exchanges with a capacity of 12.8 million lines endeavouring to cover each and every of the 557,000 villages that make India with a telephone; compared to none half a century ago, such strides in industrialisation are not limited to electronics and telecommunications alone.

Rapid progress in industrialisation are a result of conscientious, assiduous and concerted efforts in the last 47 years. Industrialisation of India has been a matter of conscious policy since 1950, the first Industrial Policy Resolution having been passed in 1948.

From chronic shortage of cement in 1950, the nation has now emerged as the fifth largest producer after China, Japan, Russia and USA. The country now meets its total requirements and exports the surplus production.

India today is the second largest producer of natural silk in the world, similar strides have been taken in the fields of paper, newsprint, aviation, shipbuilding, defence, fighter aircraft, warships, submarines, missiles etc.

India is now the sixth country in the world to enter space. In tea, it is the largest producer and exporter; in milk it is the second largest producer after USA. Development in science, technology and industry have had their visible socio-economic impact.

Thus poverty has come down from over 40% to 19%. With 150,000 post offices India has the world's largest network. In railways, with 62,660 kms of railway lines India is among the world's largest and second biggest in Asia. With 2 million kilometres of roads, it is number three globally. In education, the number of schools, colleges, polytechnics, universities have burgeoned. Thus between 1950 and today the number of colleges has grown from 700 to 8500; number of universities from 25 to 207 besides 34 deemed universities' and colleges has witnessed a virtual explosion from 0.2 million to 5 million in 1992-93. No wonder the U.S. Exim Bank rates India as the second most promising country for investment in the long run. Historically, India has been one of the greatest nations on earth. After becoming a republic India is trying to regain its old glory, its rightful place historically.

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AND APPRECIATES HIGHLY THE LOYAL AND DEEP FRIENDSHIP RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLE OF JORDAN

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AND TO THE INDIAN PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD

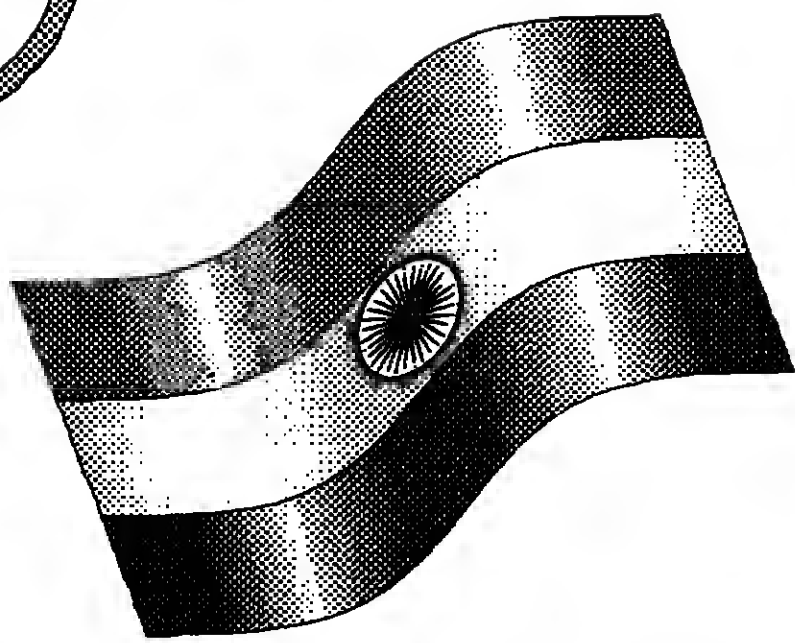


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**ON THE OCCASION OF THE 51ST ANNIVERSARY  
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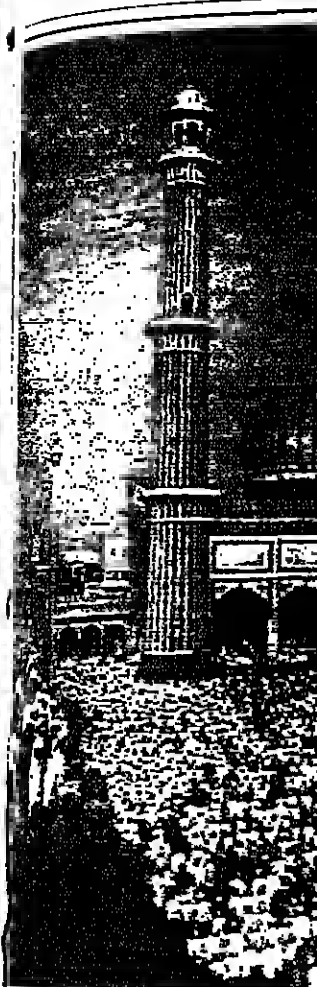


**WISH THE PEOPLE OF INDIA  
A HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY  
AFFIRMING JORDANIAN FRIENDSHIP  
AND HOPES FOR CONTINUED  
PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY**

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Regarding  
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THAT WITH close to 600 million registered voters, India is the world's largest democracy?  
That 18 languages and about 850 different dialects are spoken in India? That 11 of the 18 languages are spoken by more than 25 million people each?  
That, with over 16 million employees, Indian Railways is the world's largest employer?  
That over 10 million passengers are carried by the Indian railway network every day?  
That, with over 11,000 branches, the State Bank of India has the most branches of any bank in the world?  
That the South Point school, with over 12,000 regular students, has the largest enrollment of all schools in the world?  
That Christianity came to



Morning prayers at the Jam

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That, with over 11,000 branches, the State Bank of India has the most branches of any bank in the world?

That the South Point School, with over 12,000 regular students, has the largest enrollment of all schools in the world?

That Christianity came to

India before it came to Europe and that it was first introduced to India by the Apostle St. Thomas in AD 52?

That there are about 25 million Christians in India?

That Islam was first brought to southern India by Arab traders in the 7th century?

That, with over 125 million Muslims, India has the second-largest Muslim population in the world?

That Jewish contact with the Malabar coast in southern India dates back to 973 BC and that one of the oldest synagogues anywhere in the world still functions in Cochin?

That Zoroastrianism first came to India from Persia in AD 766 and that the overwhelming majority of the surviving Zoroastrians, numbering only about 130,000, live in India?

## DID YOU KNOW?

• That Aryabhatta (born 476 AD) is credited with the invention of algebra.

• That Brahmagupta was the first mathematician of the world to treat zero as a number and show its mathematical operation.

• That India is credited with the invention of trigonometry.

• That world's earliest treatise on geometry was written in the eighth century BC by Baudhayana of India.

• That the earliest use of irrational numbers and decimal system took place in India.

## ECONOMIC REFORMS IN INDIA

THE SEVENTH largest and second most populous country in the world, India has long been considered a country of unrealised potential. A new spirit of economic freedom is now stirring in the country, bringing sweeping changes in its wake. A series of ambitious economic reforms aimed at deregulating the country and stimulating foreign investment has moved India firmly into the front ranks of the rapidly growing Asia Pacific region and unleashed the latent strengths of a complex and rapidly changing nation.

India's process of economic reform is firmly rooted in a political consensus that spans her diverse political parties. India's democracy is a known and stable factor, which has taken deep roots over nearly half a century. Importantly, India has no fundamental conflict between its political and economic systems. Its political institutions have fostered an open society with strong collective and individual rights and an environment supportive of free economic enterprise.

India's time tested institutions offer foreign investors a transparent environment that guarantees the security of their long-term investments. These include a free and vibrant press, a judiciary which can and does overrule the government, a sophisticated legal and accounting system and a user friendly intellectual infrastructure.

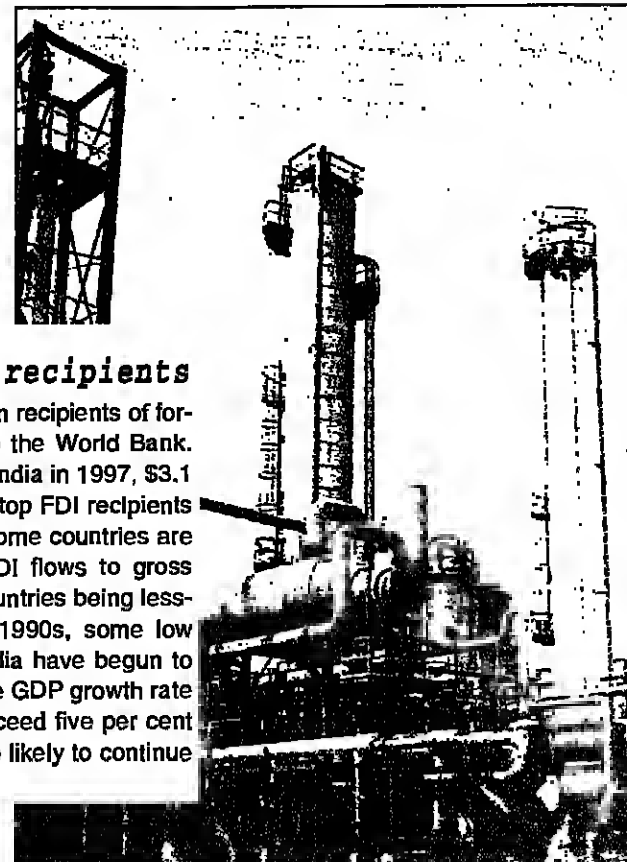
India's dynamic and highly competitive private sector has long been the backbone of its economic activity. It accounts for over 75% of its gross domestic product and offers considerable scope for joint ventures and col-



India has the largest railway system in the world under a single management

laborations.

Today, India is one of the most exciting emerging markets in the world. Skilled managerial and technical manpower that match the best available in the world and a middle class whose size exceeds the population of the USA or the European Union, pro-

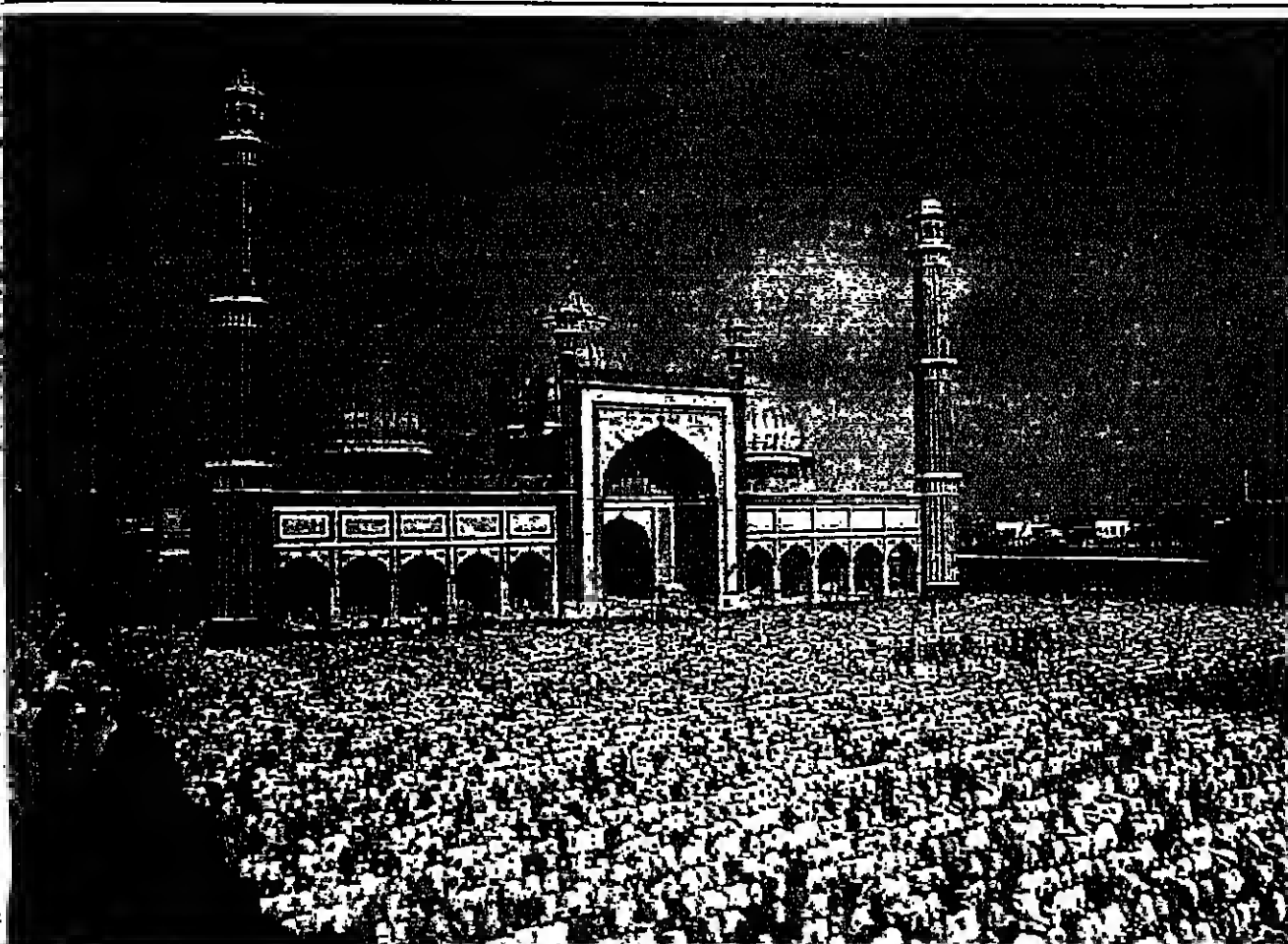


Ammonia plant in a modern petrochemical complex at Talaja in Maharashtra

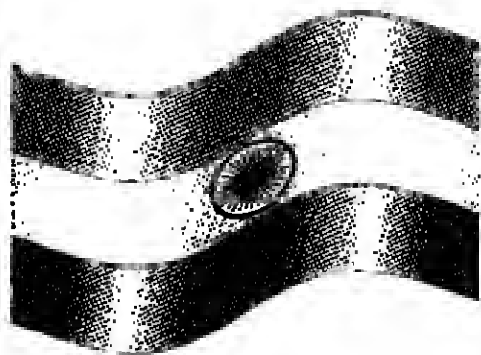
### India among top ten FDI recipients

INDIA HAS entered the ranks of the top ten recipients of foreign direct investment (FDI) according to the World Bank. Out of \$10 billion of net private flows into India in 1997, \$3.1 billion represented FDI, while most of the top FDI recipients are middle income countries, only low income countries are India and China. Despite the ratio of FDI flows to gross domestic product (GDP) of low income countries being lesser than in middle income countries in 1990s, some low income countries, besides China and India have begun to receive large amounts of FDI. The average GDP growth rate in developing countries is projected to exceed five per cent over the next 10 years, indicating they are likely to continue to attract substantial share of FDI.

vide India with a distinct cutting edge in global competition.



Offering prayers at the Jama Masjid in Delhi during Eid



ON THE OCCASION OF THE INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDIA

The Management and Staff of



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extend their warmest greetings to the people of India.



## The Magic of Bharatanatyam

USING THE body as a medium of communication, the expression of dance is perhaps the most intricate and developed, yet easily understood art form. The fascination for Indian dance all over the world is indicative of the deep-felt need to use the human body to express and celebrate the great universal truths. Indian dance does just that in a heightened, reverential form. Also, since dance is physical and visual, it illuminates India's culture in a direct manner, playing on the sensibilities of the onlooker.

Thus, those who are attracted to India will find the idiom of dance the best introduction to India's rich ethos and traditions.

One of the most enduring symbols of India is the figure of Shiva Nataraj or the dancing Shiva. Shiva's cosmic dance is believed to encompass creation, preservation, and destruction and this idea has been embedded in Hindu thought and ritual since the dawn of civilisation.

In India, dance and music pervade all aspects of life and bring colour, joy and gaiety to a number of festivals and ceremonies. In fact, dance and music are tied inextricably to festivity of any kind.

India offers a number of classical dance forms, each of which can be traced to different parts of the country. Each form represents the culture and ethos of a particular region or a group of people. The most popular classical styles seen on the Indian stage are Bharatanatyam of Tamil Nadu, Kathakali and Mohiniyattam of Kerala, Odissi of Orissa, Kathak of Uttar Pradesh, Kuchipudi of Andhra Pradesh and Manipuri of Manipur. Besides these, there are several semi-classical dances that contribute to the plethora of Indian dances.

Bharatanatyam, the most celebrated art form of the Southern Indian State of Tamil Nadu, is a dynamic and earthy dance style. It is in effect

a tradition that demands of the performer — total dedication, detachment from worldly ties and a sublimation of self to the art.

Bharatanatyam dancers are usually women and, like the ancient sculptures they take their positions from, they always dance bent-kneed. It is an extremely precise dance style where a huge repertoire of hand movements are used to convey moods and expressions.

Bharatanatyam is vibrant and very demanding of the dancer. The body



Bharatanatyam, the famous classical dance of Tamil Nadu

is visualised as made of triangles, one above and one below the torso. It is based upon a balanced distribution of body weight and firm positions of the lower limbs, allowing the hands to cut into a line, to flow around the body, or to take positions that enhance the basic form. A special feature of this dance form are 'Padams' or poems on the heroine-theme. The tempo of these love songs is slow and each phase of the performance is crystallised into a specific mood of love.

## WOMEN AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY OF INDIA

THOUGH INDIAN civilisation has come under many influences, it has a unique uninterrupted character. Women have played a major part in ensuring this cultural continuity through their role as preservers and disseminators of India's rich cultural heritage, traditions and values.

Indian culture is characterised not only by its continuity but also by its rich diversity. Diversity of religion, languages, customs and traditions have contributed towards its deep-rooted unity. Here again, it is women who have been major agents in keeping alive the distinct traditions of dress, cuisine, worship and social ritual of their region and locality.

Women have played multiple roles both at home and in the outside world. Women have been responsible for a long tradition of stable family life and family structure in India, despite great social, economic and political changes over the centuries.

Women participated actively in the struggle for freedom and came out in large numbers in support of Gandhi's movement of passive resistance. The words of Sarojini Naidu and the acts of daring of Aruna Asaf Ali thrilled and inspired Indians throughout the country.

Since independence in 1947 the progress of Indian women in urban areas has been remarkable.

Women pioneers entered the legal fields as far back as the late 19th century and today there are numerous women lawyers, barristers and judges. In Government service as well as in the private sector the ratio of women to men has constantly improved. There are now women judges of the Supreme Court, women entrepreneurs, women pilots who fly Air Force planes, and even women who have climbed Mount Everest. Women can be justifiably proud that they have achieved these positions in straight competition with men.

Listing the work of women in the voluntary field is not an easy task. In fields ranging from child welfare, education, women's welfare, care of the destitute and handicapped, women have made a major contribution. Social education work is of key importance in this field. It has contributed to the social upliftment of women thereby bringing about an

improvement in the equality of family life. Women voluntary social welfare workers have been responsible at all levels for planning and executing this work.

Since independence, women enjoy full political and economic rights and equality before the law. The Constitution guarantees that there will be no discrimination on grounds of gender. This has provided the framework for women to play a more active part in national life.

However, serious problems still remain. While there is no limit to the achievements of those women who can transcend social stereotypes to avail of the opportunities provided by Indian democracy, there is still a very large body of women in the rural areas which is unable to avail of these opportunities because of the persistence of social prejudice that a woman's role must be confined to one sanctioned by tradition. Female illiteracy remains high, particularly in some of the more socially backward states. Preference for male children remains strong. It is these problems which the Government is making a determined effort to overcome in the realisation that the country cannot progress unless its women take part fully in every field of national endeavour.

A unique experiment has begun with



### DID YOU KNOW?

That Aryabhata, India's first satellite, was launched in April 1975.

That India's first Satellite Launch Vehicle put Rohini Satellite into orbit in July 1980.

That Indian National Satellite (INSAT-1A), the world's first weather-cum-communication satellite, was sent into space in April 1982.

That Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-D3) is India's largest and most powerful satellite launcher which put the Indian Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS-P3) into orbit in March 1996.

That India's first Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS-1C) has a resolution of 10 metres which enables it to view terrestrial installations with a minimum visual range from a height of 817 kilometres in space.

## INDIA A GLOBAL SOFTWARE MAJOR

INDIA CONTINUES to create waves in the multibillion dollar global software industry with a steady and impressive increase in the volume of software exports. The year 1997 generated for India a revenue of Rs. 58,600 million through software export, as against Rs. 35,800 million in 1996, showing a record annual growth of over 64%. Yet another feather in the cap of the Indian software enterprises is the fact that more than 140 Fortune 500 companies outsourced their software requirements from India in 1997.

According to Dewang Mehta, Executive Director of the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), the handsome growth in India's software export is mainly due to continuous increase in off-shore services, year 2000 date conversion opportunities and new initiatives taken by "NASSCOM". Mr. Mehta is confident that during 1998, India software export revenue may cross the target of Rs. 64,000 million. Thus marking unprecedented growth in this sector. Going further, he revealed that India has achieved a rare distinction of achieving a growth rate of 50% to 60% in its exports for seven years in a row.

A NASSCOM survey is of the view that by the year 2000 India software exports may touch the magic figure of US\$4 billion. Today, India is supplying high quality software to nearly 100 countries around the globe.

Indeed, from being a low profile and slow moving sector, the Indian software venture has blossomed into a high quality, high profile enterprise with a lucrative prospect of netting an ever-increasing volume of foreign exchange for the country. Dr. Gobind Swarup, Professor Emeritus at the Pune-based National Centre for Radio Astrophysics has urged the Indian government to declare the first decade of the next century (2001-2010), the decade of information technology, so as to trigger software exports to the tune of US\$25 billion a year.

India's Export Promotion Board (EPB) has identified software as a

ware industry may bag US\$700 million worth of order related to solving this conundrum. Indian software companies are already seized of the problem and are working out a solution.

Of late, India has become a favourite destination of computer majors and multinationals for the location of their software centres. Today more than 130 Fortune 500 companies boast of their software centres in India. Indeed a study by the California based Frost and Sullivan Company says that while the labour is comparatively cheap in India, the government is also very supportive of such projects that have vast potential for foreign exchange earnings.

The world at large has in the meanwhile taken note of the fact that Indian software export is no longer dependent on body shopping — an euphemism for deputing manpower to work at the overseas sites of the clients. For, today Indian software companies are at the cutting edge of the latest generation of programmes, including multimedia and client server application.

The International Technology Park (ITP), a joint venture of the Tata Group of Industries, Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB) and Singapore based consortium, recently commissioned in Bangalore, is expected to give a big boost to software export from Bangalore which accounts for more than half of the total software exports from India. Many multinational corporations and global software majors have already set their shops in ITP.

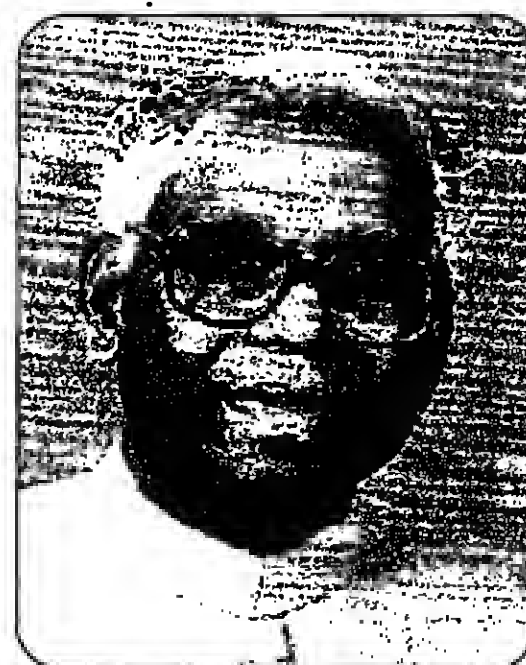
Of late, the historical city of Hyderabad has also been making it big on India's software front. As observers say, Hyderabad is all set to challenge the supremacy of Bangalore as India's Silicon Valley, thus triggering a healthy competition. The Hi-Tec city (Hyderabad Information Technology and Engineering Consultancy) being set up on the outskirts of the city is all set to attract many big players in the information industry. The Rs. 15,000 million Hi-Tec city spread over an area of 158 acres will be completed in a phased manner.

### INDIAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION (ICA) AMMAN - JORDAN

On the occasion of India's Independence Day & the conclusion of the yearlong celebrations of the 50th anniversary of India's Independence, the Indian community in Amman wish the best for India & its people.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 51ST ANNIVERSARY OF INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE  
**JORDAN COMMODITY TRADING & AGENCIES CO. LTD.**

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### GREETINGS

ON

INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDIA  
MAY FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN  
PEOPLES OF INDIA AND JORDAN  
CONTINUE TO PROSPER  
FROM  
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## Jordan Times

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## Step toward removing barriers

ISRAEL HAS finally responded to Jordanian investors' demands and agreed to temporarily reduce its inputs in products manufactured at Irbid's Qualifying Industrial Zone (QIZ) to eight per cent down from 11.7 per cent.

This decision was made after a meeting held Wednesday between the Jordanian and Trade Minister Hani Al-Husseini and his counterpart Natan Sharansky in Tel Aviv.

But this move — likely to prompt many investors to apply for product qualification for a duty-free status in U.S. markets — will not materialise unless both countries receive the green light from the U.S. — the main sponsor of the QIZ deal. While awaiting U.S. approval, foreign and local investors, not having to worry much about high Israeli input prices, are expected to take advantage of the move.

The Israeli decision is viewed by Jordanian investors as a sign of goodwill. But the investors would like to see this arrangement turned into a permanent one. By acquiescing to that, Israel would ensure higher returns from the multinational investments already based at the park and from other investors who would most likely inject foreign capital in the zone.

Meanwhile, the intention to increase trade with the Palestinian territories is not expected to instantly increase trade levels between Jordan and the PNA. But it is a step in the right direction. The Palestinian market is a very important outlet for Jordanian products.

The decision should be a first step towards easing all measures that impede a smooth flow of goods between Jordan and the PNA. At \$2.7 billion-\$4 billion, the Palestinian market is the second largest for Israeli goods.

Barriers hindering the export of Jordanian cement and construction steel to the PNA, the absence of the necessary services on the borders, the high customs duties imposed on Jordanian exports, among many other factors which all make trade with the Palestinians an unbearable headache, should all be removed.

These two agreements with Israel will not certainly end the agony of the Palestinian people nor will they end economic recession in Jordan any sooner. But they will certainly contribute to confidence-building measures that are urgently needed at this stage of the peace process.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i's Fakhri Qa'war commented on the government's decision to import bottled mineral water to meet the soaring demand for clean drinkable water. Qa'war quoted a factory owner as saying private-run factories can provide the local market with the needed water. He said the increased demand hit the water companies by surprise and they were forced to double their working hours and hire more people. The writer said the government's decision to import water was a surprise for everybody. He said the government can involve the private sector in the import of mineral water. The Ministry of Supply should give the private sector the chance to compete to provide the market with the best materials at the best prices, he said. Qa'war said the government should give up its monopoly and support its privatisation policy by allowing the private sector to share some of its responsibility.

Al-Dustour's Jihad Momani said of the bombing of the American embassies in Tanzania and Kenya that it was a foregone conclusion that the blame would be placed upon Iraq and Sudan. He said imposition of sanctions or even direct military interference in these two countries is a very plausible scenario. According to Momani, it would not be difficult for the U.S. to find people in America who supported and bankrolled Sudanese opposition who would corroborate the terrorism charge against that country. He said making the imposition of sanctions a much easier process. Momani said Israel could be responsible for the bombings. According to the writer, creating instability in the area and fanning anti-Arab and anti-Muslim feelings would be in Israel's best interest and the present situation promises to do just that.

## Jordanian Perspective

# Arab harping on differences will help no one

Dr. Musa Keilani

QUITE OFTEN we hear Arab leaders condemning Israeli practices in the occupied Palestinian territories and emphasising the need for collective Arab action. It has become the tradition in most Arab capitals these days to lament the suffering of the Iraqi people and reiterate that the Arab World is indeed deeply concerned over the means to ensure that Iraqis do not starve to death.

Several Arab countries, particularly Egypt in the Maghreb and the UAE in the Mashreq as well as Jordan, have taken a lead in sending occasional humanitarian supplies to Iraq despite their political differences with the regime of Saddam Hussein.

But we still have to see concrete action in terms of actual movement towards discussing those political differences and possibly adopt a unified stand to fight for an end to the eight-year-old sanctions that are directly behind the death of innocent children, women and the elderly because of the lack of food and medicine in Iraq.

It is abundantly clear that Iraq on its own would never be able to get rid of the sanctions because it does not suit the U.N. to have Iraq rejoin the regional and international order with the present regime in power in Baghdad. If anything,

the sanctions are a hefty weapon used to serve certain strategic interests in the region.

What we have seen is a determined drive to keep the Saddam regime as a cage lion. Of course Washington is on the lookout for the right person from among Iraqis to replace Saddam and contain the bloodbath that is inevitable in Baghdad if its rulers are forced out. The U.S. wants a situation where it would be able to call the shots in such a transition and it is unlikely that Washington might help any plot to eliminate Saddam until it is assured that whoever succeeds him would play to U.N. resolutions.

As such, what we are seeing today in our region is a campaign to determine the fate of a fellow Arab country.

While it is debatable whether accomplishing the U.S. plan will end the suffering of the Iraqi people, there is no doubt that Arab interests would not be served.

That should be the launching pad for any collective action to resolve the protracted Iraq crisis, which threatens to linger into the future with no light at the end of the tunnel.

By the same token, those who lament the setbacks that the Arabs, particularly the Palestinians, received in the

"good faith" peace negotiations launched with Israel in 1991 should also realise and accept that it is the state of disunity and incoherence in the Arab World that is behind the arrogance of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Netanyahu is effectively telling the Arab World, and indeed the international community, that Israel is interested in peace with the Arabs only on its own terms and nothing else is acceptable. And the Arab World is hapless to counter that challenge.

The net picture that emerges from the current situation in the Arab World is that Arab inaction has led to the undermining of higher Arab interests in the internal as well as external contexts. The more such inaction continues, the worse the situation turns.

And when efforts are launched to bring about a brainstorming session of the highest levels of Arab leadership, petty differences crop up to spoil the attempt.

If the Arabs are to hope for any upturn in the situation facing them today, they have to get their act together, transcending differences with each other. As long as they design their planning on the basis of their differences, there is little hope for Palestine. Much less so for Iraq.

## Iraq mounts challenge against last 2 in pro-sanctions camp

By G.H. Jansen

"ENOUGH IS ENOUGH." It is under that rubric of Arab impatience with the sufferings caused by U.S.-dictated sanctions policy that Iraq has now refused to accept any more U.N. inspection teams searching for material or information about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. At present, Iraq is allowing U.N. teams to monitor only sites already inspected.

Iraq has been compelled to mount this challenge by the cruel consequences of the eight-year sanctions regime for 22 million Iraqis.

The Iraqi ministry of health, which last week said 1.4 million Iraqis have died because of the sanctions, also reported that at least 50,000 children died in 1997 because of "malnutrition" and UNICEF says that 58 per cent of all Iraqi children are "malnourished." "Infant mortality" has quadrupled since 1990. These statistics are damning but to drive them home the authorities should have employed harsh, emotive words such as "starvation" and "hunger," applied to the state of affairs in Somalia or southern Sudan, to force world public opinion to understand and acknowledge that the situation in Iraq has been caused by the embargo imposed by the U.N. rather than the 1991 war and short-lived civil unrest. It is the world community, through the Security Council, which is killing Iraqis of all ages, but most especially the very young and very old, and physically and mentally stunting a whole generation of deprived children.

The oil-for-food programme which graciously permitted Iraq to sell \$2 billion worth of oil every six months in order to purchase food and medical supplies has failed to meet the needs of

the Iraqi people. This is partly because half that sum was deducted for war reparations, U.N. expenses, repairing the pipeline linking Iraq's oilfields to Turkey and aid to the Kurds. Thus, the Iraqi people were left with just \$1 billion to buy both food and medical supplies during each six-month period. And to make matters worse, the U.S. and Britain, dominating the Security Council committee overseeing the oil-for-food supplies, routinely delayed purchases and shipments.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said he would increase the amount of oil Iraq can export from \$2 to \$5.3 billion, making available \$4.3 billion for humanitarian supplies, cannot meet Iraqi needs. First, because adequate supplies of food and medicines cannot solve Iraq's humanitarian emergency. And, because at present the country cannot export oil to the value fixed by Annan since its production capacity has fallen to less than half of its pre-Gulf war level due to degradation and lack of spare parts.

Even if Iraq is able to raise its production to the desired level, the problems its people face cannot be met under the oil-for-food programme, but only when sanctions are lifted. This is because the Iraqi socio-economic infrastructure has collapsed.

Iraqis have to drink polluted water, sewage treatment plants have stopped working because of a lack of chemicals and spare parts, banned under the sanctions regime. Raw effluent is simply dumped into Iraq's rivers. Pumps providing the capital, towns and villages with potable water are also not working, partly because of no spare parts and partly because there is no electricity to drive the pumps. Power outages have fall-

en from 60 per cent in the past eight years. Thus, electricity is cut by six to eight hours a day in Baghdad and 20 hours daily in the countryside. This means that irrigation pumps cannot work. Thus there has been a fall in agricultural production and a reduction in livestock. Soaring summer temperatures are taking an even higher toll than during the rest of the year.

Sanctions do more than kill and maim. Sanctions have crippled the entire generation of children growing up since 1990 by depriving them of education. Iraqis call this generation the "lost generation." Because of sanctions, Iraq is unable to repair 4,157 schools damaged during the Gulf war or to rebuild 150 schools destroyed at that time. Classrooms built for 35 children now hold 70 and operate in two daily shifts. Many children must find work to help their families survive so school enrolment has fallen by 50 per cent. Under the new oil-for-food plan, Iraq has budgeted \$100 million for education compared with \$4.5 billion spent before the embargo.

Last June, Baghdad believed it had come to a modus operandi with the head of the U.N. Special Commission for disarming Iraq (UNSCOM), the Australian Richard Butler, who presented a "plan of work" and promised that if it was followed he could recommend a lifting of sanctions as early as this October. But since then UNSCOM has alleged that Iraq continues to follow a "pattern of concealment" and could not expect an early end to sanctions. The Atomic Energy Agency said Iraq has completed the destruction of all its nuclear weaponry but the Agency has refused to give the country a clean bill of health because it cannot be certain of

what Iraq might do in the future. So the "nuclear file," which Iraq expected to be closed this summer, remains open. Although UNSCOM has accounted for all of Iraq's missiles, this file has not been closed. And, UNSCOM continues to investigate Iraq's chemical and biological weapons — which most international experts believe can never be fully documented and eliminated.

Iraq now sees sanctions as a long-term U.S. plan to starve and permanently weaken its population which is being rendered illiterate by the lack of education. The aim is to take this oil-rich country back to a pre-industrial age. This is why Iraq has taken the drastic step of shutting down UNSCOM's inspection operations. For as long as they search, the files will remain open.

Baghdad decided to mount its challenge now because the U.S. and U.K. stand alone in their support of sanctions. The fact that Washington has made it clear that it will oppose the lifting of sanctions as long as President Saddam Hussein remains in power has alienated many governments prepared to tolerate sanctions. Furthermore, Russia, China, France and the Arab countries — even Kuwait — oppose U.S. military action against Iraq if it persists with this stand against inspections. By maintaining the punitive sanctions regime for so long, the U.S. and U.K., the victors of the 1991 war, have transformed Iraq into a victim. It is no longer seen as an aggressor but as a country struggling for the very existence of its people.

The writer is a Nicosia-based free-lance journalist specialising in Middle East issues. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

## Innocents lose their shirts at the currency casino

By Glyn Roberts

LONDON — The shockwaves from last year's east Asian financial crisis are still being felt around the world — and the currency speculators who helped to trigger it are still cashing in.

The latest target has been the South African rand, which now appears to have stabilised after losing almost a quarter of its value since May.

Who will be the next to take a tumble in the currency casino? Some financial analysts expect further depreciation in east Asia over the next few months, and, possibly, in "transition economies" in eastern Europe.

International speculation is a bit like a poker game in which the gambler with the deepest pockets is virtually certain to win. The losers include a nation's central bank, which spends heavily trying to prop up the value of its currency. But those who take a real hammering are the businesses that collapse, the workers whose jobs disappear and the families whose homes are repossessed in the economic turmoil that generally ensues.

The winners are rich speculators who scour the world in search of the right conditions in which they can make a killing. They are not really interested in poor nations — what they really like to see is a juicy economy showing signs of trouble.

This they found in 1997 in places such as Thailand and certain other east Asian countries which had run up large foreign debts and balance-of-payment deficits in their dash for development. To fuel rapid growth they had removed controls over the flow on funds in and out of their countries.

But much of the money pouring in did not go into productive sectors such as export manufacturing, but into areas such as shares, new ventures which lacked experience and into property, which became dangerously over-valued.

When investors sensed this danger, they took flight. Confidence can be a fickle fellow, with market players tending to follow the herd, and, amid signs of a potential stampede, the currency speculators moved in.

At the international gaming table, the speculators' chips are held in a "hedge fund." The best-known speculator, George Soros, runs a huge hedge fund called Quantum. Such funds are basically elits for billionaires to invest in. Because of their financial strength, they have powerful financial leverage — and can borrow many times their own value. They borrow vast amounts of a local currency — the Thai baht, for example — which they then sell to buy U.S. dollars. This increases downward pressure on the baht.

The country's central bank tries to

protect the currency by selling lots of its dollar reserves to buy — in this case — baht. (The Thai central bank sold \$28 billion to try to protect its value). But if the speculators' pockets are deep enough, the central bank runs out of foreign exchange with which to defend the currency, and its value falls.

The hedge fund then repays its borrowing in devalued baht, and the players cash in their chips for a healthy profit.

After Thailand, the speculators turned their attentions to other "Asian Tigers," which had similar economic problems and which were being drawn into the crisis of confidence. Other currencies affected included the Malaysian ringgit, South Korea won, Indonesian rupiah and Philippine peso. Taiwan and Singapore were also affected but not as badly, as they had larger foreign reserves and smaller debt. Hong Kong used to keep pockets to defend its dollar, but since 1997, although the stock market has been in the doldrums, it has not been able to do so.

The hedge funds from east Asia sourced confidence in "emerging" markets across the world, and South Africa was chosen as a target this year precisely because it had only relatively low levels of foreign-exchange reserves available with which to defend the rand.

Predatory hedge funds, evaporating confidence and the herd mentality of

investors pose real threats to stable growth and widespread prosperity — particularly in view of the global financial system in which vast amounts of money flow electronically in the blink of an eye. An estimated \$1,200 billion washes through the world economy every day.

To curb these worrying trends, various measures have been suggested, including more regulation and supervision of the financial sector, less hasty liberalisation, controls on the amounts that hedge funds can borrow, and the introduction of tariffs on international financial deals. Chile has already introduced a tax on short-term investments, and much has been spoken of a worldwide "Tobin Tax" — named after American Nobel laureate James Tobin — to be levied on currency transactions and to discourage speculation.

Powerful industrialised countries remain cool to such a tax, and opponents dismiss it as unworkable. But supporters point out that advances in computer technology have made it possible to monitor large financial dealings.

Soros, the king of the speculators, has himself suggested the establishment of an international credit insurance corporation to guarantee a country's financial loans. Certainly, governments should no longer guarantee the loans of private companies, as happened in Asia.

Here, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) stands accused of double standards. Critics say the fund, which negotiated bail-out packages, turned a blind eye to the manoeuvrings of Western creditors as they demanded government guarantees to recover all their losses in east Asia.

"If the Korean government sought to subsidise loss-making private enterprises, the IMF would be the first to accuse Seoul of interfering with market forces," said Martin Khor Kok Peng, director of Third World Network, a Malaysia-based institute specialising in economic and environmental issues.

IMF tactics have also been criticised by the celebrated North American economist John Kenneth Galbraith, who has referred to the IMF as bailing out "those most responsible," while extending "the greatest hardship to the workers, who are innocent participants."

For the moment, the east Asian casualties appear dependent on the fortunes of their currencies. These are currently bouncing around in the depths in a climate of volatility. If there is a sound financial recovery, economic health can return fairly quickly, but without this and without new thinking on international finance, there seems little hope.

— Gemini News

## Water crisis, Jordanian-Iranian relations take spotlight

Reviewed by Mohammad Ben Hussein

Local columnists last week discussed the water pollution crisis, Jordanian-Iranian relations and the recent challenged posed by Iraq against the United Nations.

Al Ra'i's Zeid Hamza criticised the Lower House Agriculture Committee accusing its members of lying about the potability of water from the Zai Water Treatment Plant. He said the committee members made an inspection visit to the plant and claimed water there was suitable for human consumption which later, he charged, was proved to be a big bluff. Hamza described the committee members as collaborators with the government and said they are not serving the purpose for which they were elected. Hamza called on Jordanian voters not to be influenced by their emotions when casting their ballots for deputies. He said since deputies control

Jordanian's futures, people have to be highly selective in choosing their four-year representative. The writer called for additional resignations of senior government officials and for negligence by public officials to be punished. Hamza criticised the government for not respecting people's intelligence by issuing contradictory statements about the causes of the water pollution.

Al Ra'i's Fakhri Kawar called for Minister of Health and Medical Care Ashraf Kurdi to resign, charging that he is one of those responsible for the current water crisis in the country. Kawar said Kurdi should be brave enough and resign, like Minister of Water and Irrigation Munther Haddadin did when recognised his guilt and resigned after pumping polluted water to residents of Amman. The writer lashed at Kurdi for what he said were contradictory statements made by the minister. Kurdi had said the water people receive from

the Zai Water Treatment Plant was drinkable, but "as precaution," people should boil the water for several minutes," said Kawar. According to the writer, if the water is healthy then there is no need to boil it. He said Kurdi is causing public confusion.

Al Dustour's Oreib Rintawi

### Week in print

addressed the issue of Jordanian-Iranian relations after a recent visit by Minister of Foreign Affairs Jawad Anani to Tehran. The writer said he opposed the notion that fostering bilateral ties between the two countries would have a negative impact on Jordanian-Iraqi ties. He said Iran and Syria are strategic partners since the Iraq-Iran War, despite that, Iraq and Syria managed to iron out their differences. The writer predicted Iraqi-

Syrian economic cooperation would be more active than Jordanian-Iraqi cooperation. The writer said cultivating Jordanian-Iranian economics ties would bring benefit to Jordan because the Kingdom has attractive religious sites specially for Shiite Muslims. Why would Jordan not improve its ties with Iran, currently heading the Islamic Organisation, while the West, the United States and Europe are doing so? the writer asked. He did not deny the existence of some differences in both countries' views about some issues, but added it is essential to pave the way for better links.

Al Dustour's Yasser Zaarba called on the Arab World to break the sanctions imposed on Iraq and not wait for the United States and Israel to decide on the future of one of their brothers. He said the Jordanian government should take the Syrian initiative of breaking the sanctions as an example and do the

same. The writer said the American promises of grants to Jordan will not be as profitable as the results of economic cooperation between Jordan and Iraq. Zaarba praised Egypt's position in supporting Iraq in its stand with the United Nations and called on the Arab countries to condemn the American administration and Israel for being responsible for the current crisis between Iraq and the U.N.

Al Ra'i's Raja El Issa discussed the crisis between Iraq and the United Nations. He slammed Richard Butler, The United Nations Special Committee (UNSCOM) for disarming Iraq, and for being a collaborator with the United States. He said Butler is creating excuses to make the sanctions last longer. The writer said everything Butler reported to the United Nations Security Council is old news. He said if Iraq produced VX gas as Butler has claimed, this was long ago.



# Hi-tech for tiny hands: Computer schools target kids

By Sven Appel and Jay Dougherty

REUTLINGEN, Germany — How young is "too young" to begin teaching kids about computers?

While the diaper stage may be a bit premature, some computer advocates and educators argue that these days, there's hardly a reason to wait much longer than that.

"Young children need to be prepared now to be able to use computers and to adapt to technology," Trent Mendenhall, director of the Los Angeles-based FutureKids training centres, told the German Press Agency DPA.

"They can start learning useful computer skills as early as age three or four," he says.

Evidently, many parents agree. As a result, computer schools for kids have been proliferating around the world to meet a rising demand and to offer the kind of introduction to computers that is still lagging in many traditional schools and day-care centres.

Most computer schools for children aim not only to acquaint young ones with computer technology but also to make them comfortable enough with computers so that they can learn on their own outside of the classroom.

"In the information society, operating a computer and software is as important as learning reading, writing, and arithmetic," says Ulrich Kramer, founder of Profikids, a chain of computer schools for children in Germany.

Kramer founded Profikids five years ago in the small city of Reutlingen, Germany, and today he has some 30 franchises around the country.

"The demand is still growing," Kramer says.

In the U.S., computer schools such as Mendenhall's FutureKids have experienced similar rapid growth. Having started just over six years ago with a single school, FutureKids is now international, with franchises in Europe, South America, Australia, Japan, Thailand and the Middle East.

Mendenhall explains the rapid growth of the industry using a premise that many parents take for granted.

"When today's children enter the workforce, most jobs will require extensive computer skills," he says.

But how, exactly, do these schools teach computer skills to kids whose hands are sometimes too small to use a keyboard adequately?

Approaches vary. At Profikids, the curriculum centres on classes that introduce the computer, teach math games and even allow hands-on practice with complicated computer simulations.

Typically, classes are small — from three to eight children — and meet twice each week.

"The younger kids are four years old, and attend together with their mother or father," Kramer explains. But in most cases, the pupils are old enough to attend elementary school.

Once the familiarisation stage is over, some computer schools for kids provide keyboard training and then employ business-strength applications — from word processors to computer aided design programmes — to tackle kid-size projects.

Other centres even make fair game of the computer itself.

"We open up the computer and show kids the CPU, interface cards, hard drive, floppy drive, cables," says Tom Zarei, owner of Computer Clinic Centre in Washington, D.C.

Although methods vary, the goal in most computer schools for kids is usually the same: instill in the kids the idea that computers are fun and that they're a tool for learning.

Barbara Schade-Alde, who operates a FutureKids franchise in Munich, Germany, agrees.

"Using children's stories or subjects like environmental protection, we motivate the children to experiment with the computer," Schade-Alde says of her work at FutureKids.

"What the kids learn also depends on their preferences and abilities," says Ulrich Kramer. With the goal of emotional and mental control over the device, children are introduced to the computer step by step. "Some begin to programme at an early stage, while others use the PC for creative purposes," Kramer notes.

Not everyone, though, thinks the computer school trend is something to cheer about. It may be, at best, a



According to specialist instructors, children need to be prepared to cope with computers and high technology — and the younger the better (DPA photo)

case of overzealousness on the part of parents, says Gudrun Koester-Satorius of the consumer protection agency in Kiel, Germany.

"Even if elementary school children have access to the new media, the question is, do they really need to know how to operate a computer at that age?"

Koester-Satorius sees no merit in

the fear of many parents that their children may miss out on important career opportunities later in life without early exposure to computers.

"It is totally sufficient to learn computers in the early teen years," she says.

Others, such as Lothar Dunkel in Muenster, Germany, are afraid that

the principle of "equal education for all" is undermined by such schools. "I would feel better about the whole thing if training were offered by the government, or if parents could raise the money to put PCs into all public classrooms," not to give PC skills to a privileged few youngsters, Dunkel explains.

Dunkel also advises parents to

scrutinise the hardware and software of schools and the qualification of teachers if they do choose to send their children to a computer school. No more than two children should be sharing a PC, he says, regardless of where they're taught.

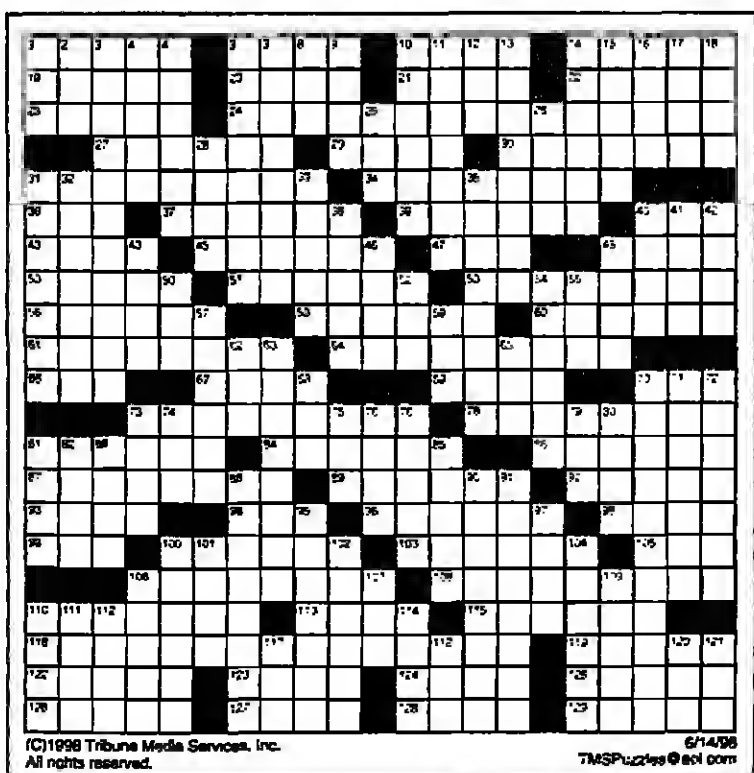
— Deutsche Presse-Agentur

## The Saturday Crossword

JUNE 14th

By C.L. Flowers, York, Pennsylvania

- ACROSS**
- 1 Greek tablet of yore
  - 8 Whip stroke
  - 10 American composer
  - 14 Commerce
  - 18 City on the Ganges
  - 20 Durable's theme song, "— Dika Do"
  - 21 Program choices
  - 22 Healer
  - 23 Spoiled kids
  - 24 Two time flag
  - 27 Do 360s
  - 29 Supper
  - 30 Mesabi Range output
  - 31 Hearty marriage
  - 32 Heritages
  - 36 Sports off
  - 37 Medicinal herbs
  - 38 Blue jeans
  - 40 School in Dallas, TX
  - 43 Proverbance
  - 45 Tidy up
  - 47 Saint of it
  - 48 Poor grades
  - 49 Public storehouse
  - 51 Find secondary corrections
  - 53 Engineers
  - 56 Coming to the rescue
  - 58 Indonesian currency
  - 60 Library patron
  - 61 French flag
  - 64 Image on a red-and-white flag
  - 66 Say more
  - 67 Plagiarized part of the eye
  - 69 "Strike la vampe" or "Vase d'aria," a.s.
  - 70 Tight spot
  - 73 United Kingdom flag
  - 78 See 24A
  - 81 B-complex vitamin
  - 84 Applied by pass
  - 86 Sets of steps over fences
  - 87 Twist together
  - 88 Vind purple/red
  - 89 Success in apes
  - 93 "Roads" co-star David
  - 94 Aest.
- DOWN**
- 1 Cop call
  - 2 Musical gift
  - 3 Double triangle on a flag
  - 4 Victorious
  - 5 Moles adhere
  - 6 Eavesdropper
  - 7 Sensory organs
  - 8 Reggae's cousin
  - 9 Rhythmic
  - 10 Astounded
  - 11 Bridge blunders
  - 12 Furthermore
  - 13 Session player
  - 14 Condition of agonizing struggle
  - 15 Water falls
  - 16 Rival rival
  - 17 Woods ruminant
  - 18 Highland tongue
  - 25 Actor Mino
  - 26 In good shape
  - 28 So be it
  - 31 One of "The Snoop Staters"
  - 32 Workout wear
  - 33 Homer
  - 35 Orchestral main character
  - 36 Optimize plant
  - 40 Future plant
  - 42 Gory's nation
  - 44 Monumental
  - 46 Malay thicket
  - 48 Not listening
  - 50 Romy Music member, once
  - 52 Betting advice
  - 54 Coats with crumbs
  - 55 Stephen of "The Crying Game"
  - 57 Applying epoxy
  - 59 After the shive of
  - 62 Egg: brief
  - 63 Depicted
  - 65 Abner
  - 66 Steady Dan album
  - 70 Black-and-white tags
  - 71 Small carper
  - 72 Puzzling crime
  - 73 Beehive State
  - 74 Arise the dialist
  - 75 Easy as
  - 76 Pens, with a handle?
  - 77 Pueblo tribe
  - 79 Phone co.
  - 80 Human parasites
  - 81 Groves
  - 82 Concocting
  - 83 Slow mbe var.
  - 85 Buttoned
  - 86 Suffer a reputation setback
  - 90 Sled on an angle
  - 91 Like cars in a traffic jam
  - 92 Cooking surface
  - 97 "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes" guy
  - 100 Western scraps
  - 101 Vexed ornate
  - 102 Earthquakes
  - 104 White music
  - 106 Desert ride
  - 107 Star Wars: abbr.
  - 109 Took on cargo
  - 110 Queerest's boss
  - 111 Ring of saints
  - 112 Oscar-winning actor Jennings
  - 114 Ray's kid's ad.
  - 117 "Yong" Cole
  - 118 Malay terms
  - 120 Dora's prairie
  - 121 Russian chess master



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Last Sunday's Crossword Solved

ACROSS  
1. Greek tablet of yore  
8. Whip stroke  
10. American composer  
14. Commerce  
18. City on the Ganges  
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37. Medicinal herbs  
38. Blue jeans  
40. School in Dallas, TX  
43. Proverbance  
45. Tidy up  
47. Saint of it  
48. Poor grades  
49. Public storehouse  
51. Find secondary corrections  
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70. Tight spot  
73. United Kingdom flag  
78. See 24A  
81. B-complex vitamin  
84. Applied by pass  
86. Sets of steps over fences  
87. Twist together  
88. Vind purple/red  
89. Success in apes  
93. "Roads" co-star David  
94. Aest.

## Call for schooling in sorcery to curb witch-hunts

While many developing countries are striving to introduce computer studies in schools, some Tanzanian politicians and officials want teachers to hold lessons on witchcraft. Their idea, is to explode myths and end lynchings of old people accused of sorcery.

By Alfred Mbogora

**DAR ES SALAAM** — Schools in Tanzania should hold classes about witchcraft to help cut the country's murder rate, according to a number of legislators and officials.

These who back the call are not seeking to turn schoolchildren into sorcerers' apprentices. They want to educate youngsters in traditional beliefs so that they can better distinguish between myth and reality.

Fear of black magic is deep-rooted in parts of Tanzania, and hundreds of old people are killed on the grounds that they are witches.

"If a child dies of any illness in a village, illiterate poor villagers simply jump to the conclusion that he was bewitched and a hunt for the witch begins," said Martin Mtu, district administrative secretary in Geita, Mwanza region, near Lake Victoria.

Home Affairs Minister Ali Amour Mohamed said many of the 2,403 unlawful killings in Tanzania last year were linked to belief in witchcraft. He cited Mwanza, Shinyanga, Kagera, Mara, Dodoma, Mbeya and Dar es Salaam

as some of the regions with a high murder rate among old people.

The minister could not give the exact number of cases resulting from witch-hunts, but Timothy Shindika, MP for Buchosa in Mwanza, claimed that more than 240 old men and women were killed in Mwanza, Shinyanga and Iringa by mobs accusing them of witchcraft.

Some human-rights activists have pressed for the ordinance to be repealed, arguing that it has no place in a country seeking to develop by

appear keen on the proposal, however. Professor Juma Kapuya, minister of education and culture, said his ministry had no plans for witchcraft lessons.

Legislation remains on the statute book to prosecute people claiming to have magic powers. Under the colonial Witchcraft Ordinance of 1928, anyone intending to cause harm through sorcery can be jailed for up to seven years.

However, consent for a trial must be obtained from the Director of Public Prosecutions, and poor rural villagers do not believe they have the means to bring cases to court. Those who feel that they or their relatives are the victims of black magic often resort to a witch-hunt and lynching.

Some human-rights activists have pressed for the ordinance to be repealed, arguing that it has no place in a country seeking to develop by

**Pupils should be taught to understand that deaths from disease were not caused by sorcery.**

In a parliamentary debate, Shindika said that the introduction of school classes on witchcraft could help curb the number of deaths related to superstition. Pupils should be taught to understand that deaths from disease were not caused by sorcery.

"Let us not be ashamed of our own culture," he said. "Most of us fear witchcraft. I believe education on magic could help our children to be free of mythical beliefs."

The government did not

means of modern science and technology.

But Guntrani Itatiro, a former regional commissioner, said the country could not ignore the influence of witchcraft because it was "actually being practised."

He pointed out: "I know a number of regional commissioners who have consulted witches for fortune-telling in the quest of secure their positions and become rich."

Major-General James Luhanga, the Mwanza

Regional Commissioner, said belief in witchcraft was deeply rooted in the culture of the Sukuma, the country's largest ethnic group.

He agreed that lack of education was partly to blame, along with inadequate health services. With such poor medical care, many people turned to traditional healers and beliefs.

Luhanga said that Sukuma witch-hunters often picked on old women with red eyes. He pointed out, however, that lonely old widows sometimes had red eyes from the excessive smoke given off by the dried cow dung they burned. They used this as fuel because they were often too weak to collect firewood.

Abbas Kikunite, the Mwanza district commissioner in Mwanza, said: "We must assume that the people know who the killers are, but they never talk."

"Even if the victim cries for help, no-one comes to her rescue."

The body is normally found with a deep cut to the throat, with the arms and legs hacked into pieces.

Culprits are rarely found. Police have been asking traditional healers to help them track down the killers, who are known to consult healers in search of magic charms to protect them.

Meanwhile, Mwanza's regional medical officer, Samuel Biseko, has joined the call for more education, stressing the need to teach the Sukuma people that child mortality is caused mainly by poor diet and lack of medical services and not by black magic.

— Gemini News

By Herman Tu Lau

PHILIPPINES is many things to many people. It is a country of islands, a country of people, a country of culture. It is a country of many things to many people. It is a country of islands, a country of people, a country of culture. It is a country of many things to many people.

The first experiment in globalisation was the Philippines. It was the first country to open its doors to the world. It was the first country to open its doors to the world. It was the first country to open its doors to the world.

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## The Philippines at 100

# The IMF experiments on the island nation

Editor's note: This is the first of a two-part article

By Herman Tiu Laurel

THE PHILIPPINES is many things to many people. To some it is just a motley collection of islands somewhere in the Pacific, famous for its place in World War II history. Some will still remember it as home once to two American military bases, Clark and Subic. Many will associate it with the rise and fall of the Marcos dynasty, or with the volcanic eruption of the century, Mt. Pinatubo, which lowered global temperature by 1° due to the pyroclastic material it spread over the atmosphere. In geopolitical terms, it sits at the central point of a major trade route in Asia, situated between the Pacific and the South China Sea. For this reason the Philippines became a major battle area in World War II as the key stepping stone to all points of the region. With the U.N. Law of the Sea ratified in 1983 extending exclusive economic rights 200 miles from the shores of a country, the Philippine archipelago and its sea territory rival the size of the major countries of the world.

### The first experiment in globalisation

The Philippines is a country of 72 million people, rich in gold and other mineral resources, oil and natural gas in offshore deposits, and geothermal energy supplies. Over 92 per cent of its children obtain primary education. Yet, despite all these resources and being hailed in the 1950s as one of the two emerging tiger economies (the other being Japan), it remains one of the poorest countries in the region. As one eminent nationalist-economist, Alexandro Lichauco, put it in an article published July 21, 1998, "This country has been under International Monetary Fund-World Bank supervision for 36 continuous years, and yet it can't even produce a globally competitive bubble gum. What we have created is, after 36 years of adherence to IMF-WB medication, is a bubble economy that has exploded in our faces."

Few people know that the Philippines was the first experiment in the latter day International Monetary Fund-World Bank programme of "globalisation." In 1992, following the U.S.-CIA-sponsored election victory of seventh President of the Republic of the Philippines, Diosdado Macapagal, the free trade regime was first imposed on a country in this region in exchange for a \$150 million loan and an IMF "stabilisation" programme. That loan has multiplied to \$52 billion upon the assumption of the 13th President of the Republic Joseph Estrada.

It's not for lack of independent spirit that the Philippines succumbed to such a long subjugation to foreign economic prescriptions. In 1898, the Philippines was the first Asian nation to establish a republic and declare its independence after fighting a continuous rebellion of more than 350 years against its first coloniser, Spain. This nascent independence was interrupted by over 50 years of American colonisation after Spain ceded the territory to the U.S. on Dec. 10, 1898, only six months after the Filipinos declared independence from Madrid. The ratification of the treaty taking the islands from Spain got only one vote more than the required two-thirds majority, reflecting the deep anti-imperialist and anti-"Manifest Destiny" sentiment of the American people.

Independence was re-acquired through "peaceful grant" from the American government in July 1946. The grant of independence was not altruistic, as the war-ravaged Philippines would have been an economic and financial burden to the U.S. government. On the eve of this grant of independence, the U.S. enacted two laws, one of which was the Philippine Rehabilitation Act, stipulating the much-needed war damage and compensation and financial assistance for the Philippines' sacrifice in World War II. The assistance was conditioned on the Philippine acceptance of another law, the Philippine Trade Act, otherwise known as the Bell Trade Act. The latter imposed free trade on the Philippines.

The independent spirit of the Filipinos persisted, alternately revived in the nationalist policies of two Philippine Presidents, Elpidio Quirino and Carlos Garcia, who kept buoying nationalist economic hopes of the Philippines, in the tradition of American nationalist economist Alexander Hamilton. In the 1950s, the Philippines was considered one of the two emerging tigers of the region, as the Philippines established itself as a manufacturing economy. The major component of this economy was the foreign-exchange controls system championed by the two nationalist Philippine presidents and carried to its glory in Garcia's Filipino First policy.

In 1962, in a CIA-sponsored election victory, Diosdado Macapagal won over Garcia, and immediately dismantled the foreign-exchange controls under what was known as the "decontrol" programme, surrendering all economic sovereignty over its currency and trade. Macapagal devalued the

Philippine peso from P2 to \$1 to double that, or P4 to \$1, and borrowed \$300 million in one of the earliest IMF-style "stabilisation" loans. The Philippines never looked back to the glory days of its manufacturing economy, and saw its foreign debt explode by nuclear proportions, from \$300 million in 1962 to \$52 billion today in 1998.

### The debt trap and Asian financial crisis

The foreign debt is the most crucial factor in determining the state of health of the Philippines economy. To this day, at least 40 per cent of the national budget is devoted to debt service. In recent years, through accounting sleight-of-hand, only about 18 per cent of the national budget is dedicated to debt service. In the 1998 national budget, only around P120 billion of P570 billion is allocated for debt service. But the reality is, for example, after the 1986 change from Marcos and during President Cory Aquino's time, debts incurred through the old Central Bank of the Philippines were separated and serviced through a "board of liquidators" in a newly organised Bangko Central ng Pilipinas.

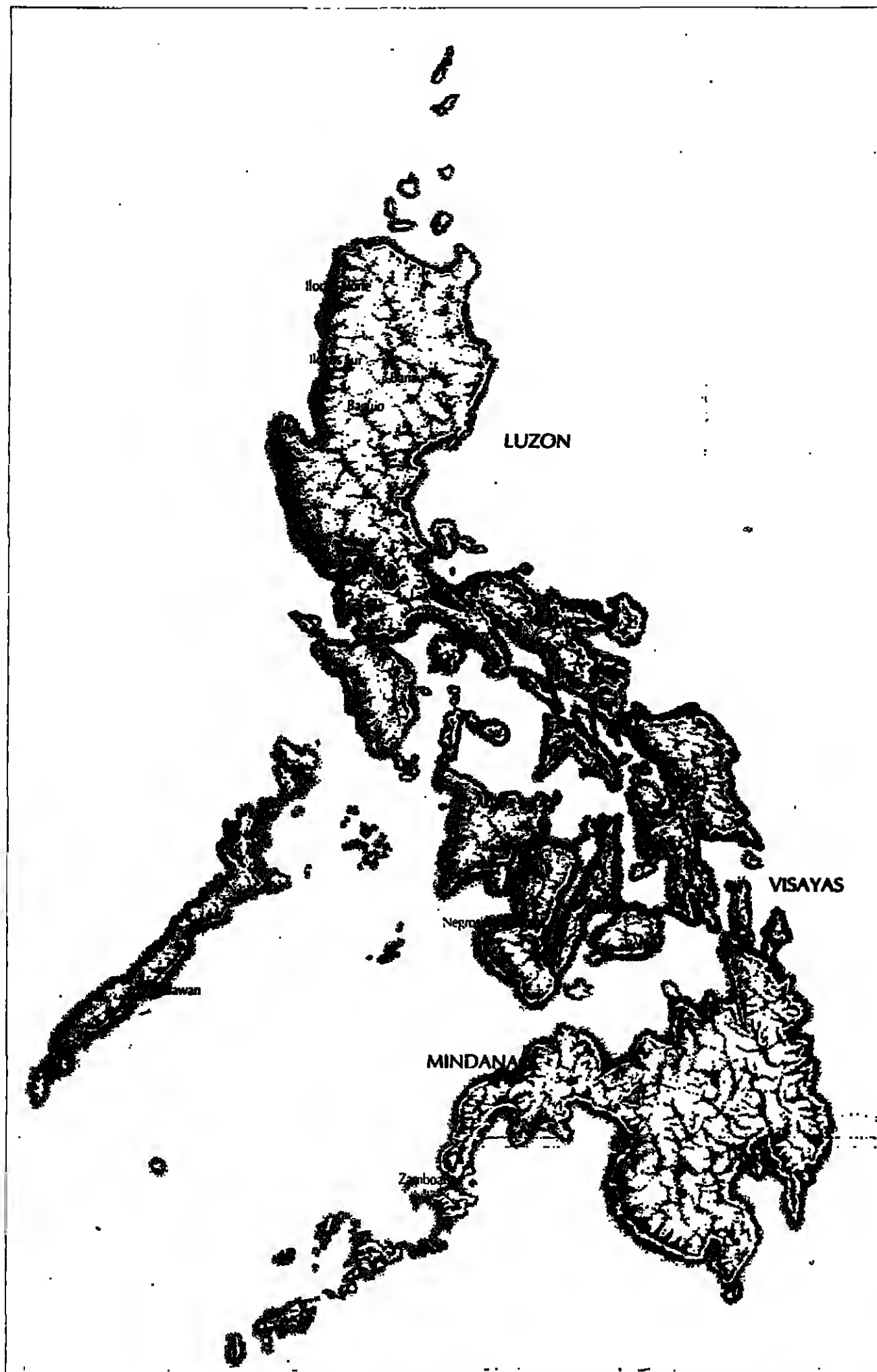
The Philippine foreign debt, like all Third World debt, has been repaid three times over through interest payments over 36 years. Yet, every year, the debt principal grows. With the IMF-WB-imposed economic and financial regime, no Philippine government has been able to survive without yearly infusions of today's equivalent of \$2 billion loans. Which explains the debt today, put by the IMF at \$52 billion. An historic opportunity was missed at the start of the Cory Aquino government in 1986, when the world stood in awe and sympathy for the People Power Revolution that toppled the old regime of Marcos and the financial debacle associated with it. Instead of crusading for debt reduction or condemnation, Aquino pledged to "honour all debts" incurred by the previous regimes, no matter how onerous and unproductive.

The Philippine economic crisis reached new heights under Fidel Ramos, as the West Point graduate-turned-politician committed his administration to a full implementation of the IMF's liberalisation, deregulation, and privatisation regime. Ramos converted the former American military bases to duty-free zones and duty-free shops, and smuggling mushroomed. In the former U.S. naval base, Subic Bay, the end result after six years of this regime was a \$500 million net trade deficit. The revenue losses to smuggling are incalculable, as, for example, in the case of cigarettes, where the estimated smuggled volume rose from 400 million cigarettes in 1986 to 16 billion by 1996. Following trade liberalisation, Ramos proceeded to reduce import tariffs and shifted tax burdens to consumers through a so-called Comprehensive Tax Reform Programme, which came to be known as a "deforum" programme where direct taxes were changed to more retrogressive indirect taxes.

To tide over the perennial fiscal and economic crises, the Philippines has relied on "export" (it would be more apropos to call it exile) of up to eight million Filipinos to work overseas in increasingly menial jobs. Estimates of remittances from Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs, for short) total between \$8-12 billion. But, with it, comes AIDS and a generation raised by absentee mothers or fathers, resulting in tremendous social dislocation, aggravating the illegal drugs problem and other social ills. Then, in 1997 the global financial crisis started unravelling in the region, causing the Philippine peso to drop a full 60 per cent in value relative to the U.S. dollar.

The Philippine stock market dropped 50 per cent from its peak of 3,400 points down to 1,700 points in the year since the first major devaluation of the peso began in 1997. GNP projections have declined from seven per cent to 2.5 per cent for 1998, primarily for an economy that has been lagging by a minimum of five per cent in growth annually for at least a decade, compared to the neighbouring countries. Since the Asian crisis began, the ranks of the unemployed have swelled to 4.1 million, not counting the under employed and the self-employed. Inflation shot up to 10.6 per cent from June 1997, and in the last seven months alone, prices of basic goods increased by 19 per cent.

Non-performing loans of the commercial banking system surged to 8.9 per cent, and doubled to P73.7 billion at the end of 1997 from the previous year's P34.2 billion. By the end of February 1998, this stood at P103.32 billion, up 40.2 per cent, and is expected to hit 12 per cent of the total loans in the system. This, despite the Philippine Central Bank's easing of the definition of bad loans, by exempting "all restructured loans fully backed up by collateral." Commercial loan growth dropped. Of 55 commercial banks in the country, Central Bank officials have admitted publicly that only 17 will survive as the Philippine banking crisis turns from bad to worse in the coming months. The adverse impact on Philippine banks from the Asian crisis has been delayed compared to neighbouring countries due to its comparatively negative ratings before the crisis



and, therefore, reduced exposure to offshore dollar loans.

The crisis was compounded by El Niño, which ushered in drought, and with Ramos's adherence to the IMF's preference for promoting high-value crops instead of rice, agriculture contracted by 3.3 per cent in the first quarter of 1998 on top of the contraction in 1997. Manufacturing, which was already contracting by two per cent previous to the Asian crisis, has contracted 11.8 per cent between April 1997-1998. Construction, hit by the bursting of the real estate bubble, has contracted by 60 per cent by some accounts. In the first quarter of 1998, vehicle sales, most of which are imported from

Japan, South Korea, and the United States, fell by 58 per cent. Wheat imports, much of it from the United States, have declined from 1.35 million tonnes last year to 1.34 million tonnes this year, although it had had a natural growth pattern before the crisis. The economic downturn was greatly induced by the fluctuating interest rates that have risen to as high as 40 per cent in the past two years, although this has been tapering off recently.

— Executive Intelligence Review

## Iraqi Kurd chief promises to compensate attacked Turcomans: Turkey

ANKARA (AFP) — Iraqi Kurd chief Massoud Barzani has agreed to pay compensation to Turcomans, Iraqis of Turkish origin, whose goods were seized by his fighters, the Turkish foreign ministry said Friday. "Massoud Barzani, chief of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), said he is dismayed by the incidents and committed himself... to punishing the perpetrators of the attacks and paying compensation for Turcoman property," the ministry said in a statement. Barzani agreed to recompense the Turcomans after a meeting with their representatives, the statement said.

Turcoman groups said Wednesday that they were attacked by KDP peshmergas Monday night in the northern Iraqi city of Erbil.

The Turkish foreign ministry also confirmed the attacks had been carried out and called for the perpetrators to be punished.

The KDP and its rival, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, have jointly

ruled northern Iraq in defiance of Baghdad since the 1991 Gulf war.

Their partnership collapsed in 1994 because of disputes over power-sharing and tax revenue, mainly from the border trade. However, they have been observing a fragile ceasefire since October 1996.

The KDP has been allied with Turkey since May 1997 in its battle against the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), Turkish Kurds fighting for a homeland in southeast Turkey.

The PKK uses northern Iraq, or Iraqi Kurdistan, as a rear base for attacks on Turkish territory.

The 1-3.5 million Turcomans constitute the third largest ethnic group in Iraq after the Arabs and the Kurds.

The Turcomans live mainly in the KDP-controlled Erbil area and in the Iraqi-run northern provinces of Mosul and Kirkuk.

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Among the firms that drew the investors attention in the parallel market were the Arab German Insurance Company, with a turnover amounting to JD100,000 followed by the National Aluminium with JD35,924.

Even ISPs like Global that boast a 6,000-strong subscriber base — the biggest in Jordan — are barely able to scrape an acceptable level of profit.

Currency	USD	JOD
US Dollar	-	0.7156
Jordan Dinar	1.4104	-
Saudi Riyal	0.2668	0.1150
Bahrain Dinar	2.66	1.8150
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1815
Kuwait Dinar	3.2636	2.3250

	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUN
D	3.7507	0.3770	3.6400	
	5.2901	0.5317	5.1340	0.4337
	-	0.1005	0.97	0.0811
	9.9483	-	9.66	0.8151
	1.0304	1.0304	-	0.0844
	12.2034	1.2265	11.84	

-	11.42	3.3944
674.21	-	2.9698
33.65	33.6500	-

AED	LBP	EGP
3.6728	1518.00	3.4220
5.1803	2141.04	4.8265
0.98	404.72	0.9124
9.74	4028.74	9.0774
1.01	417.03	0.9401
11.96	4938.99	0.9401

Energy		
Oils	Last	revision
Brent	0.00	0.00
W. Texas	12.26	13.41
Bonny	0.00	0.00
Dubai	12.53	11.69

Mid-East Currencies					
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2666	0.4800	0.16472	0.4019	38.8802
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.49015	0.16821	0.41042	35.7062
KW Dinar	1.2538	8.58523	2.91005	4.90436	474.323
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.77555	1.63681	3.9984	386.847

Bourse	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low	Pt Cls
NewYork	DOW JONES	8483.46	23.96	0.28	8556.57	8458.99	8489.5
Newyork	S&P 500	1072.9	-2.01	-0.19	1083.92	1071.42	1074.91
London	FT-SE 100	5489.4	89.9	1.66	5517.5	5434.9	5399.5
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	16123.93	-258.09	-1.63	16355.1	15049.5	15382
Paris	CAC 40	3994.51	43.22	1.09	4024.27	3973.11	3951.08
Frankfurt	DAX	5447.9	91.67	1.71	5483.16	5355.4	5356.23

Commodity	Last	Delivery	Currency	Buy	Sell
Coffee (c/lbs)	117.58	Spot	US Dollar	0.709	0.710
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1879	Spot	GB Sterling	1.151	1.1558
Sugar (\$/ton)	261.4	3spot	DE Mark	0.393	0.395
Wheat (\$/ton)	98	Spot	CH Franc	0.4727	0.4751
Soya (c/lbs)	23.54	Spot	FR Franc	0.1173	0.1179
Ten (std/g)	125	Spot	JP Yen	0.4814	0.4838
Barley (\$/bsh)	0	Spot	NL Guilder	0.3485	0.3593
Rice (\$/ton)	445	Spot	IT Lira	0.3986	0.4096

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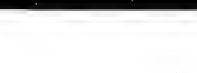
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## Al Shurfa Bar & Terrace at Ammon Hotel opens

AMMON HOTEL has celebrated the grand opening of its new Al Shurfa Bar & Terrace in a ceremony that was attended by the minister of tourism and archaeology and a number of high ranking diplomats. This step is part of Ammon Hotel's desire to become one of the capital's main entertainment hot-spots, due to its excellent location between the 4th and 5th Circles in the heart of Ammon diplomatic district.

**Peanuts**

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I TOLD YOU...THE EARLY BIRD CATCHES THE BUS..

**Andy Capp**

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TAKE ME BACK, PET, AND I'LL SACK ANY INCONVENIENCE, NO MATTER HOW LATE YOU COME HOME IN FUTURE.

...PET?

YOU PROMISE?

I PROMISE.

THEY WERE A DEAD LOSS, ANYWAY - ALL I EVER GOT FOR MY INVITE WERE TWICE AS MANY BECAUSES!

**Mutt'n' Jeff**

COLD CUTS AND POTATO SALAD AGAIN?

RIGHT! YOU SAID HOT POT COOKING HOT MEALS IN THE HOT WEATHER!

YEAH, I KNOW, BUT A MAN'S ENTITLED TO A HOT MEAL ONCE IN A WHILE!

WHAT'S FOR SUPPER TONIGHT, N' LOVE?

YOU HAVE A HOT MEAL! I HEATED THE POTATO SALAD AND COLD CUTS!

## THE BETTER HALF.

By Glasbergen

GLASBERGEN

"My wife didn't come with a dowry, but she had a great record and tape collection."

## JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME  
by Henri Arnold and Miler Argentin

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GOYGS

TEABA

TOPECK

NARTTY

Answer: HE WAS " " " "

(Answers bottomed)

HOW THE PRINTER GOT THE MOVIE ROLE.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Yesterday's
Jumbles: ORBIT
QITTO
WASH, SONLY

[illegible]







# Seles beats Tauziat to advance to WTA semis

MANHATTAN BEACH (AFP) — Former World No. 1 Monica Seles won six of the last seven games to beat France's Nathalie Tauziat 6-4, 6-4 and reach the semi-finals of a \$450,000 WTA event.

The fourth-seeded American moved nearer the \$79,000-top prize by beating the fifth-seeded Wimbledon runner-up.

Seles next plays Saturday against the winner of the match between World No. 2 Lindsay Davenport and Natasha Zvereva.

Davenport, the 1996 champion and 1997 runner-up here, took only 50 minutes to oust Julie Halard-Decugis of France, 6-0, 6-4. Davenport won her third title of the year last week at San Diego.

Zvereva, the eighth seed from Belarus, beat Spain's Nagu Serna, 6-2, 6-1.

The top quarter-final matchup Friday could be World No. 1 Martina Hingis of Switzerland taking on hometown favorite Serena Williams, the 21st-ranked sister of rising star Venus Williams.

Williams ousted France's Sandrine Testud, the seventh seed, 6-4, 3-6, 6-1. Hingis beat Croatia's Iva Majoli of Wednesday.

Hingis seeks her first title in three months and her fifth this year after winning 12 tournaments in 1997. She last took a title in early May at the Italian Open. She begins defense of her U.S. Open crown August 31.

French Open champion and third seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain faces Ukrainian lucky loser Elena Tatarova in the other quarter-final. Tatarova beat sixth-seeded Romanian Irina Spirlea 6-2, 6-2, Thursday.

Tatarova entered the draw on Wednesday when France's Mary Pierce was forced to withdraw due to a right groin strain.



Monica Seles

## Bordeaux coach Baup calls for caution

PARIS (AFP) — Bordeaux coach Elie Baup has called for caution among the team's ranks following their impressive thrashing of Paris Saint Germain on the opening day of the French football championship.

Baup could be forgiven high optimism following their 3-1 Parc Lescure result. But, in the run-up to their away trip to Le Havre on Saturday, Baup claimed his side were not yet on top of their game.

"The team is not yet playing at 100 per cent," he said. "And it will take between 10 to 12 days before we are physically at our best."

Bordeaux midfielder Johan Micoud also urged his side to keep their feet on the ground.

"Our victory hasn't proved anything. It was just a great way to start the season," he said. Bordeaux midfielder Michel Pavon, sent off against PSG, is one of three absentees for the weekend game. Defender Kodjo Afanou is suffering from a muscular problem which will keep him out for a month and Dutch midfielder Kiki Musampa is still not back following an ankle problem.

Monaco's David Trezeguet, who has a pulled muscle in his right calf is set to miss their home match against Sochaux, along with Fabien Lefevre, who has a toe problem. Monaco had a scare last week when promoted Lorient went ahead through Ali Bouafia, who scored the first goal of the championship. Jean Tigana's men hit back to win 2-1.

Metz coach Joel Muller has major problems up front as three strikers are out injured for their home match against Marseille.

Bruno Rodriguez has a right thigh injury. Jonathan Jager has groin problems and Louis Saha is suffering with a twisted right ankle, leaving the only fit strikers Yugoslavian Vladan Lukic and Louis Saha. PSG coach Alain Giresse confirmed his side must do without toe-injury victim Nicolas Ouedec and Nicolas Laspadles, who has a right calf problem, for their home match against Bastia.

Giresse said: "These are two tough blows for the team. Ouedec got hurt in a training clash with Christian Worms. We must do all we can to get them back in action."

Russian Igor Yanovski was at the training session and Giresse has still not made up his mind whether to field the midfielder.

"Physically Yanovski could be ready for Saturday and he is eligible. But I'm not sure if I will take the risk and throw him into the unknown," Lens, who have had defender Frederic Dehu and striker Tony Vairelles called up into the French squad to play Austria in Vienna on Wednesday, told Lorient.

## Chiesa, Dino Baggio and Del Piero before judges

MILAN (AFP) — Soccer stars Alessandro Del Piero, Dino Baggio and Enrico Chiesa were interviewed by state prosecutors in Turin and Bologna on Friday as part of inquiries into drugs in Italian sport.

Three separate investigations are underway, including one in Rome led by the national Olympic Committee (CONI), but all are in the spotlight after last week's drugs warning by AS Roma coach Zdenek Zeman.

Bologna magistrate Giovanni Spinosa is looking into a covert trade in substances — whether banned or not — used by athletes in all sports.

He ordered police swoops this week on a Bologna pharmacy, its owners and a series of sports doctors including Alberto Bargossi, who is close to the medical staff at Dino Baggio and Chiesa's club, Parma.

Baggio emerged after two hours at a police headquarters, saying: "It was nothing in particular... it all went fine, there were no problems. Now I'm going on holiday to the seaside."

The international midfielder said he was being interviewed only as a witness, which in Italian law rules out the possibility of him having committed any offence.

Asked if he thought the matter was now closed, he said: "Yes, but then it never even got started."

Chiesa emerged soon afterwards saying he too had only been interviewed as a witness, and had no knowledge of either the Bologna pharmacy or its founder, Massimo Guandalini, at the heart of the affair.

Guandalini was reportedly an adviser to Italy's national squad for the 1996 European championships in England.

Parma executive Claudio Anzalone, himself a lawyer, said his two men were chosen because: "The club does have a rapport with the pharmacy and because they were both at the European championships."

Asked if they were interviewed about EPO, a banned drug which increases oxygen in the blood and which Guandalini's shop is suspected of selling to sports teams,

he said: "I don't think so."

"They were being asked about what restoratives they take, which is all perfectly above board."

Meanwhile, Del Piero spent a couple of hours in Turin with state prosecutor Raffaele Guariniello, who specialises in public health issues and who had noted Zeman's surprise at Del Piero's muscle development with Juventus.

Both men left a court building there without making any comment. The venue had been chosen to try and dodge the press corps waiting outside Guariniello's office elsewhere in the city.

However, Del Piero had already made his line of argument clear in newspaper interviews on Friday.

"I am indignant about doubts being cast on my club and on myself," said the striker, who is planning legal action against Zeman for defamation.

"You simply can't wake up one morning and decide to start accusing people you don't even know, and when you don't know what training they do," he fumed.

"As a professional, I am not at all worried about all this. I have nothing to hide and I am ready to answer to any authority."

He went on: "I feel wounded, mortified even, but I am going to fight this right through to the end. People have to pay for their mistakes and Zeman made a mistake."

"I don't know when our paths will cross next, but when it does, I don't know whether he will have the courage to look me in the eye."

As for his physique, the 23-year-old said: "I have been training very hard, with weights and in the gym, for five years: if my muscles hadn't developed I wouldn't be an athlete: I'd have given up."

Zeman had also marvelled at the muscles on former Juventus striker Gianluca Vialli, now player-coach of Chelsea.

Vialli is expected to be interviewed by Guariniello in Turin on Monday, according to Italian press reports.

## Nevada officials once again control Tyson's fate

LAS VEGAS (AFP) —

Nevada boxing officials once again control the boxing future of Mike Tyson after the latest bizarre twist in the former heavyweight champion's career.

Tyson withdrew his bid for boxing reinstatement in New Jersey on Thursday and instead submitted a request to return his fighting license to the same Nevada officials who banished him from the sport 13 months ago.

"We were surprised to get it," Nevada Athletic Commission executive director Marc Ratner said. "But we will set up a hearing and it will be a fair and impartial hearing."

Tyson, released from prison in 1995 after serving three years for rape, was banished by the commission for biting off a chunk of Evander Holyfield's ear in their world heavyweight title fight in June of 1997.

A hearing had been scheduled Friday morning in Trenton, New Jersey, but Tyson's fate will now be decided at a hearing that Ratner expects will happen in two to three weeks after Tyson's tactical switch.

"We did it because of what we'd been hearing from all the commission, that Mike was hurting himself," said Shelly Finkel, Tyson's advisor.

He denied being fearful that New Jersey would deny Tyson's bid, saying there was a growing perception that Tyson should face the men who judged him earlier.

"I felt very positive," Finkel said of the New Jersey hearing. He also said he was confident of success in Nevada but added, "We can always go back to New Jersey if it's bad in Nevada."

Such hopes would be dim in light of Tyson's 11th-hour pullout and his outburst during a July hearing in New

Jersey when he cursed while wondering why he had to keep apologising for the Holyfield incident.

Elias Ghanem, the Nevada commission's chairman, said Tyson made a smart move by coming back to Nevada.

"Maybe he came back to his senses and decided the best way to go about this was to come back to the state that revoked his license," he said.

Tyson has split with Don King, his former promoter, and his suing the wordy wild-haired money-maker. There were reports Tyson feared King's influence in Nevada boxing circles would lead to an unfair hearing.

"We have a very fair commission and we don't delay our decisions," Ghanem said. In the New Jersey hearing,

Tyson was questioned for about 40 minutes about his 1992 rape conviction and the reasons behind his biting Holyfield a second time and feared the end of his career when he gnawed Holyfield's right ear.

"I was in a rage. I just snapped," Tyson said at the hearing. "I'm sorry for what I did. It will haunt me for the rest of my life."

Tyson claimed he was retaliating for head butts that video replays and referee Mills Lane did not see. Asked if he could lose his temper in the ring again, Tyson said, "I ruined my life. What do you think I will do it again?"

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## Fernandez falls; Huber wins at Boston Cup

BOSTON (AFP) — Fourth-seeded Italian Silvia Farina and France's Nathalie Dechy faded in their second matches of the day here Thursday to fall at the \$164,250 WTA Boston Cup.

Rain interrupted play Tuesday and Wednesday, forcing the Europeans into action twice within only a few hours.

Farina's match, which began Tuesday and continued Wednesday before being halted by rain each time, finally ended with her sweeping the final four games for a 1-6, 6-2, 7-5, triumph over American Mary Joe Fernandez.

But after her warm up rally, she fell to Zimbabwe's Cara Black 4-6, 6-4, 6-2, in a second-round match.

Black will meet fifth seed Elena Likhovtseva in Friday's quarter-finals after the Russian ousted Taiwan's Shi-Ting Wang 6-4, 6-2.

Dechy disposed of Japan's Yuka Yoshida 6-2, 6-4 Thursday morning in the final first-round match but succumbed 6-1, 7-6 (7/1) to South Africa's Mariaan de Swardt, who faces second-seeded German Anke Schett in the quarter-finals.

Huber advanced in a walkover when Olga Barabanshchikova of Belarus was unable to play to a stomach flu.

Top seed Amanda Coetzer of South Africa advanced by beating Japan's Nana Miyagi 6-3, 6-3. Coetzer meets Austria's Barbara Schett in the quarter-finals.

## Scheduling keeps U.S. 'dreaming' of Sydney 2000

WASHINGTON (AFP) — After skipping the World Championships due to a labour dispute, National Basketball Association players from the United States have one last chance to earn a berth for the 2000 Olympics.

But that's only if the millionaire owners and players can settle their squabble over a \$1.7 billion empire in the next 11 months.

This week, the Confederation of Pan American Basketball Associations (COPABA) set July 14-25 for the 1999 Tournament of the Americas, a Sydney Olympic qualifying event to be played at Guadalajara, Mexico.

By scheduling the event in July, one month after the NBA season ends, COPABA kept alive the chances that another U.S. "Dream Team" of NBA stars can qualify for Sydney and seek a third consecutive Olympic title.

The possibility of an NBA lineup in a must-win situation to qualify was likely too enticing a financial boon to let slip away.

"They probably had some pressure," USA Basketball spokesman Craig

Miller said. "COPABA probably realised they can make more money. The Mexican organisers and whoever holds the television rights probably realized it. These pressures probably helped."

"And I'm sure world governing body FIBA realised the scenario and wanted to help. I don't think anyone is out to exclude the U.S. from the Olympics. But by no means are they guaranteeing the U.S. a spot either."

The tournament will have eight to 10 nations vying for two berths at the Sydney Games. The original 1992 U.S. "Dream Team" won the Tournament of the Americas in 1991 in Portland, Oregon, to qualify for Barcelona.

Host Australia and world champion Yugoslavia have secured spots in the Olympics. The U.S. crown in Atlanta only ensured the Americans a berth in the world tournament, which ended last weekend in Greece.

A U.S. team of minor-league players finished third, losing a semi-final to Russia in the final seconds. NBA play-

ers were dropped when they would not promise to play even if a labour dispute arose with owners, as it did.

NBA owners locked out players July 1, primarily seeking an end to a salary cap exemption that allows clubs to resign their own free agent with no regard to salary cap limits.

With no end to that feud in sight and the November start of the NBA season threatened, USA Basketball will wait until late September or early October before deciding if it wants NBA players again.

Olympic and world basketball officials want NBA talent and NBA officials are among USA Basketball's leaders, so expect an NBA-laden U.S. team at Guadalajara unless the labor fight lasts into next June.

NBA Commissioner David Stern said in June that many owners would rather not have their top players risk injuries by playing in international events such as the Olympics or world championships.

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PHILADELPHIA 1'	PHILADELPHIA 2'	PLAZA	CONCORD	GALLERIA 1	GALLERIA 2	Hisham Yanes Theatre
Leonardo DiCaprio... in <b>THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30	Comedian Adel Imam... in <b>AL ZA'EEM</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30	Comedian Adel Imam... in <b>AL ZA'EEM</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 Additional shows Thursday and Friday evenings at 12:30	CONCORD 2' Adel Imam & Yusra... in <b>LETTER TO THE GOVERNOR</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 RELIC Shows: 7:30, 8:30 CONCORD 2' <b>BABY'S DAY OUT</b> Shows: 7:30, 8:30 only	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria Comedian Adel Imam... in <b>AL ZA'EEM</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 Additional shows Thursday and Friday evenings at 12:30	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria Ruhm Williams & Matt Damon... in <b>GOODWILL HUNTING</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 p.m. <b>AL ZA'EEM</b> Shows: 10:00 p.m.	STARTING JULY 13TH <b>The Authority in the Service of the People</b> Starring Hisham Yanes and the group For reservations call: 4640155, 4625155

McLaren's head as Schumacher phases

McLaren's head as Schumacher phases

McLaren's head as Schumacher phases

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## McLarens ahead as Schumacher chases

BUDAPEST (AP) — David Coulthard led McLaren-Mercedes teammate Mika Hakkinen in free practice Friday for the Hungarian Grand Prix, with Michael Schumacher close behind in his Ferrari.

Schumacher, who trails Hakkinen by 16 points in the Formula One drivers' standings, needs to win Sunday's 77-lap race to have any hopes of overtaking the Finn by the end of the season.

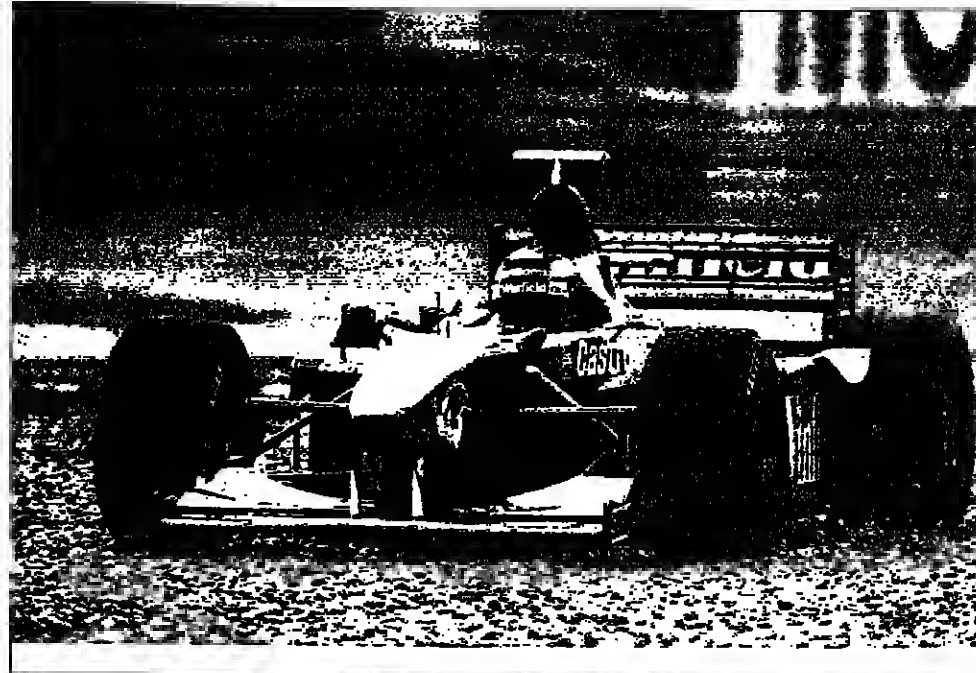
Hakkinen, who is coming off back-to-back victories in Austria and Germany, appeared ready for the challenge.

He had the fastest time in the morning's practice session, during which the cars were slowed down by a summer shower.

The afternoon was dry and Hakkinen vaulted over Schumacher late in the one-hour session.

He wasn't fast enough, however, for Coulthard, who finished behind Hakkinen in the two last races.

Coulthard is third in the drivers standings, 34 points



Canada's Jacques Villeneuve drives through the gravel August 14 after spinning off the track during the first time trial for Sunday's Formula One Grand Prix. Villeneuve clocked only the 10th fastest time with 1:40.140 minutes (Reuters photo)

behind Hakkinen, who has 76. Schumacher has 60. A victory is worth 10 points.

With five races left in the season, Schumacher doesn't have much time to achieve his goal of winning his third Formula One championship and becoming the first Ferrari driver to clinch the title since Jody Scheckter in 1979.

Schumacher's previous two titles were in different cars. After a disappointing fifth place in the German Grand Prix, Schumacher spent the past week testing on Ferrari's home track in Fiorano, covering 1,200 kilometres.

"This afternoon showed that we are in much better shape than in Hockenheim," Schumacher said. "The gap to the front runners is not too big."

On Hungary's narrow, winding 3.9-kilometre circuit, overtaking is very difficult and good grid position could be a decisive factor.

Coulthard posted a best-lap time of one minute, 19.989 seconds.

Hakkinen was .197 seconds behind, with Schumacher .450 off the pace.

Reigning world champion Jacques Villeneuve of Canada was fourth in a Williams, just two-thousandths of a second slower than Schumacher.

Eddie Irvine, the second Ferrari driver, was fifth, while former champion Damon Hill was sixth in a Jordan.

Third seed Korda of the Czech Republic rallied for a 5-7, 6-4, 7-5 triumph over Croatian Goran Ivanisevic while Aussie Rafter, seeded fifth, outlasted 31st-rated American Todd Martin 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Korda's quarter-final foe is Rafter, who will defend a massive 1,400 ranking points over the next three tournaments. Rafter lost his first set in a fortnight after winning the Canadian Open but gradually imposed his serve-and-volley attack game on Martin.

While Sampras would like to reclaim the top ranking spot he lost to Chile's Marcelo Rios on Monday, his principal task here is preparation for the U.S. Open, which begins August 31 in New York.

"The Open is my main goal, I'm going to give it my best shot," Sampras said.

Sampras hopes to make tennis history in New York by capturing a 12th career Grand Slam title, which would match the record held by Australian Roy Emerson.

Ivanisevic, who Sampras defeated six weeks ago in the Wimbledon finale, suffered a setback loss. He served for the match leading 5-3 in the third set but Korda, 30, fought back for the break and repeated the feat two games later to take a 6-5 edge.

Korda let out a scream of joy as he drove a forehand home for the winner a game later to advance to the quarter-finals.

An all-Swedish quarter-final was set as Magnus Larsson beat Germany's Tommy Haas 6-4, 6-4, and Thomas Johansson beat Frenchman Jerome Golmard 7-6 (7/5), 7-6 (7/2).

## Grand Slam winners play like champions

MASON (AFP) — Three reigning Grand Slam champions played at elite levels here Thursday to reach the quarter-finals of the \$2.2 million ATP Championships.

Australian Open holder Petr Korda, Wimbledon winner Pete Sampras and reigning U.S. Open champion Pat Rafter breezed to victories in this hardcourt tuneup for the U.S. Open, which begins in New York on August 31.

Pete Sampras, needing to defend his crown here to reclaim the title of World No. 1, beat fellow American Jan-Michael Gambill 7-6 (7/3), 6-3 in 73 minutes. He next faces another American upstart, Vince Spadea.

"I certainly hope I've had a positive influence on young guys growing up," Sampras said.

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## Arab Junior Swimming Championships Jordan adds 2 bronze medals

By Rofan Nahhas  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan's team Friday added another two bronze medals at the 5th Arab Junior Swimming Championships taking up the Kingdom's tally to two gold, one silver and five bronze medals.

The Kingdom's boys Under-13 4x100m relay team took the bronze medal clocking 4:43.20. Egypt came first with 4:08.12 and Oman came second clocking 4:11.93.

By press time, another Jordanian bronze was secured by the boys Under-15 team in the 4x100m relay clocking 4:15.31. Egypt took the gold with 3:52.39 followed by Syria with 4:06.86.

Meanwhile, organisers cancelled the diving competition Friday for lack of participants, with only Kuwait and Iraq registering for the event.

Jordan's Hana Majaj Thursday captured the second gold medal for Jordan in the 100m butterfly in the Under-17 category. Majaj earlier secured the Kingdom's first gold medal in the 200m butterfly.

The Kingdom's other medals were secured by the girls Under-14 team who won a silver medal in the 4x100 freestyle relay while their Under-16 teammates won a bronze in the 4x100 freestyle relay.

Jordan's Sadeq Damrah won a bronze medal in the 100m breaststroke on the opening day of the event in which 12 countries are taking part in swimming and water polo.

Egypt seems to have a piece of the pie in each event leading overall team standings with 39 gold, 38 silver and 23 bronze medals. They seem likely to remain in first place in the event which concludes Sunday.

Following Friday's competitions, Jordan's coach Ali Nawwas commented: "I am sure that we could have done better and secured more medals."

"Hana Majaj is an excellent swimmer and we should take better care of our exceptional swimmers," he added.

Meanwhile, unlucky Omar Dallal who came in 4th place in four events and registered a new Jordanian time in the 200m breaststroke admitted



Egypt's Shatha Abu Ismail on her way to a win in the breaststroke event (photo by Abdullah Ayyoub)

that he should learn from his mistakes.

"I have committed a couple of technical mistakes and I am learning," he told the Jordan Times.

"I will now prepare myself for the Pan-Arab Games and I hope to get in shape and have better timing," he added.

A mother of four, Muna Dallal stressed the family's role in preparing their sons and daughters for a championship.

"We suffer a little for them but we do enjoy it. We always feel proud of them," Dallal told the Jordan Times.

In the Under-13 category, Algeria's Raouf Ben Obaïd took first place in the 100m butterfly clocking 1:02.60 followed by Egypt's David Demian with 1:03.28 and teammate Karim Othman third with 1:03.53. Jordan's Saher Al Rabadi came in seventh place.

In the Under-15 category, Lebanon's Rula Al Hares took the gold in the 200m clocking 2:30.77 followed by Egypt's Yasmine Abu Alez in second place with 2:31.51 and teammate Shroq Shnawi third with 2:35.18.

In the Under-13 category, Algeria's Sabria Demian came first with 2:36.93 in the 200m, Egypt's Suha Hamad was second with 2:39.06 and teammate Mai Ra'fat was third with 2:40.44. Jordan's Sandi Zraïq came fourth clocking 2:51.71.

Algeria's Sufian Dayed came first in the 200m breaststroke with 2:28.19 followed by Egypt's Ayman Kahtab with 2:29.34 in second place and teammate Waleed Radwan third with 2:34.09. Jordan's Omar

Only three teams are taking part in the water polo competition: Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

The August 10-16 championships groups swimmers from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Egypt, Algeria, Oman, Iraq, Syria, Qatar, Tunisia, Palestine, Morocco in addition to Jordan.

## Arsenal facing tough task to ward off United challenge

LONDON (AFP) — Arsenal, who won only the sixth double in English football history last season, begin the defence of their Premiership crown this weekend — but it is Manchester United who start the new campaign as favourites.

United, who kick off the gruelling 38-match programme with a home game against Leicester City on Saturday, finished 1997/98 without a trophy while the Gunners swept all before them in a stunning finale to the season.

Arsenal, who face Nottingham Forest at home on Monday, were unbeaten in the league from November and overtook United to take the title with a magnificent 12-match winning streak which culminated in the 4-0 home win over Everton.

But Arsenal are only second favourites this time around with commentators fearing that manager Arsene Wenger's failure to reinforce his squad over the summer will allow United to regain the title they had won in four of the previous five seasons.

Arsenal, like United, face a marathon campaign on two major fronts: the Premiership and the European Champions' League.

But while United manager Alex Ferguson, bolstered his already star-studded squad with the signing of two world-class players — Holland defender Jaap Stam and Sweden winger Jesper Blomqvist — Wenger made just one major signing, Argentine full-back Nelson Vivas.

Wenger's squad is a mixture of ageing stars (Tony Adams, Steve Bould, Martin Keown, Lee Dixon, Nigel Winterburn, David Seaman) and relatively inexperienced youngsters (Nicolas Anelka, Christopher Wreh, Stephen Hughes, Matthew Upson).

Only a handful of players could be considered at the peak of their careers (Dennis Bergkamp, Marc Overmars, Ray Parlour, Emmanuel Petit, Patrick Vieira).

Wenger's persistent claims that English clubs will always struggle in Europe so long as the existing domestic structure is maintained make it all the more bizarre that he has stayed out of the transfer market while his main rivals — United, Chelsea and Liverpool — have all been spending heavily.

It was precisely United's lack of cover in key positions — exposed by an injury crisis in the second half of the season — which

allowed Arsenal to overhaul them for the title.

Arsenal were generally lucky with injuries last year but with the average age of their back five 35, they are ever more vulnerable to strains and pulls.

United, meanwhile, have greater reason to be confident despite losing 3-0 to Arsenal in last Sunday's curtain-raising Charity Shield at Wembley.

Ferguson has strengthened his defence with the club record signing of Stam for £10 million pounds while the arrival of left winger Blomqvist from AC Milan will allow Ryan Giggs, United's most attacking threat, to assume a more influential role down the middle.

But perhaps the biggest boost for United has been the return from a career-threatening knee injury of Republic of Ireland's combative and inspirational midfielder Roy Keane, whose absence for eight months last season arguably cost United the title.

United spent the summer desperately trying to buy a world-class striker but were rebuffed in attempts to land AC Milan's Patrick Kluivert and Aston Villa's Dwight Yorke.

And it is in attack that they might struggle despite all the creative talent in a mid-field of Giggs, David Beckham, Paul Scholes and Keane.

Teddy Sheringham suffered an alarming dip in form in the second half of last season while Andy Cole still misses a stack of chances and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer is still to establish himself as a truly world-class player.

The most potent challenge to Arsenal and United seems set to come from Liverpool and Chelsea — just as it did last season — and both have been active in the transfer market in the close season.

On paper, it is difficult to find a better team in the world than Chelsea's and their first choice line-up could read: De Goey (goalkeeper), Petrescu, Desailly, Leboeuf, Le Saux (Defence), Di Matteo, Wise, Poyet, Laudrup (midfield), Casiraghi or Vialli, Flo or Zola (attack).

The challenge for player-manager Gianluca Vialli will be to rotate his squad of cosmopolitan all-stars into a cohesive, happy unit, though there are already rumblings of discontent among the players who fear that they may not get regular

first-team football.

Liverpool, meanwhile, merely need to put one name down on their team-sheet to have opposition quaking in fear: Michael Owen.

This time last year barely anyone had ever heard of him, but after a stunning first season and a sparkling display at the World Cup, the 13-year-old goal sensation has rapidly established as one of the most formidable players in the world.

When England striker Robbie Fowler, just four years his senior, returns from injury towards the New Year, Liverpool will be able to field one of the deadliest strike forces in the Premiership.

Liverpool have also strengthened their defence with the signing of Norwegian international Vegard Heggem from Rosenborg, South African-born striker Sean Dundee from Karlsruhe and Irish defender Steve Staunton.

After narrowly avoiding relegation last season, Tottenham and Everton have both regrouped and are unlikely to struggle this time round.

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# Mourners grieve at Kenya bomb site

NAIROBI (AP) — In a show of unity and grief, Christian and Muslim members of Kenya's parliament laid a huge wreath of red and white roses at the site of the embassy bombing on Friday.

The legislators sang "We Shall Overcome" and prayed for unity and tolerance. Nearby, an FBI evidence response team laboured over debris with rakes, continuing their search for evidence.

With rescue operations wrapped up and the death toll apparently fixed at 257, the focus Friday was on cleanup work and the all-out push to learn who perpetrated the simultaneous bombings in Nairobi and in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, on Aug. 7.

"It will take at least four more weeks to complete examination of both bomb sites and witness interviews, and from that we will develop leads," Assistant FBI Director Thomas Pickard said in Washington.

In another sad pilgrimage to the ruins, a group of Kenyan women, each carrying a red or white rose and many weeping, offered prayers for the dead at an ecumenical service.

"Women in Pain," said a banner they carried.

The head of the Vatican missionary service, Cardinal Joseph Tomko, also showed up Friday morning. Tomko was in Nairobi to ordain two new bishops.

"Who can approve of terrorism?" he said after praying for the dead and wounded. "We must find another way of living together on this earth. Look at it: It is so beautiful. Why this? Why?"

Friday's newspapers were filled with death notices for bomb victims, with pictures of the deceased. One showed a smiling young couple on their

wedding day. Both died in the blast.

Another showed two sisters, ages 16 and 17.

The newspapers were also full of bitterness and anger at the United States. Columns and letters to the editor complained that the United States tried only to save its own citizens after the blast.

"You could show us a little more sympathy, America," said one headline in the East Africa Standard.

A U.S. State Department warning against visiting Kenya also created ill will. Tourism is vital to Kenya's economy and there were fears the warning would deal it a crippling blow.

Ambassador Prudence Bushnell announced Friday that the warning had been lifted.

James Flannery, head of the Kenya Tourist Board, said he was pleased by the move.

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's visit to Kenya in the near future "will show the world that the United States and important Americans are not afraid to come to Kenya," Bushnell said at a ceremony, where the United States donated search-and-rescue equipment to Kenya.

"Friends do not desert one another in times of disaster," she said.

On Thursday, Sheila Horan, FBI special agent in charge of the investigation, said investigators had gathered "very critical and important information" on the bombers' identities.

The FBI has 215 agents, lab examiners, evidence technicians, computer specialists, photographers and translators in Kenya and Tanzania.

Pickard said, and British forensic team was expected to join the 22 FBI lab examiners in Kenya and Tanzania shortly.

Pickard said agents on the scene had 700 interviews to conduct in Nairobi and 200 in Dar Es Salaam. Some of the Kenyan embassy guards who may have seen the bombers survived the blast.

Kenyan police say about five people have been detained. In Tanzania, about 14 people have been picked up for questioning.

Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa said joint police work with Kenya "has given us important leads in our investigations."

Kenya's Muslims feel they have been unfairly targeted because of suspicions that Islamic terrorists are involved in the blast.

They say several Muslims were detained without cause.

"It seems they've decided that the people who did it are Muslims, now let's go for the evidence," Mohammad Farouk Adam, vice chairman of Nairobi's Jamia Mosque, said.

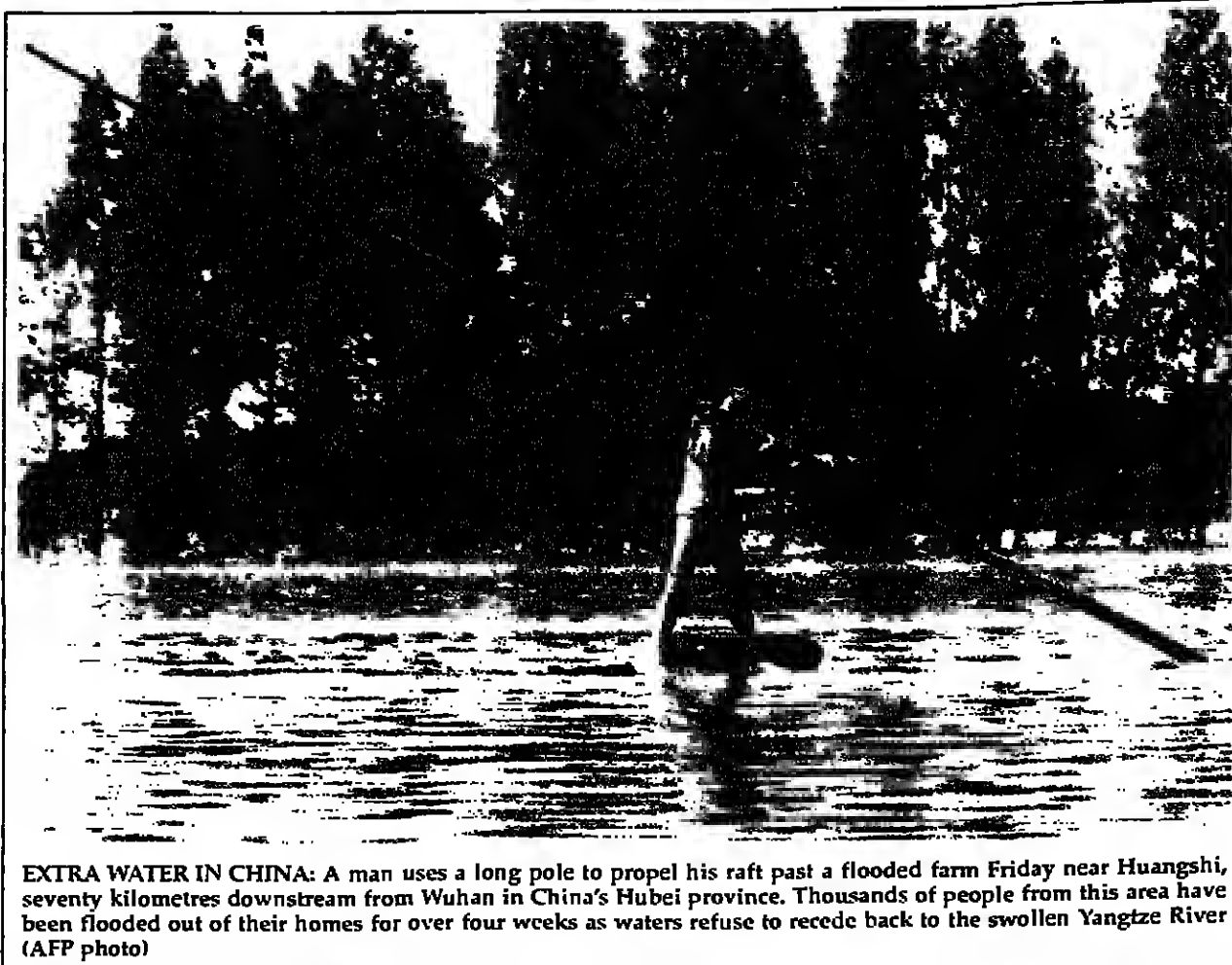
In Dar Es Salaam, U.S. military sources said investigators are now looking at the possibility that a bomb-laden vehicle was behind a water delivery truck at the embassy entrance.

Suspicion had been centred on the water truck. Embassy spokesman Dudley Simus said Friday that embassy officials still think the truck was the likely delivery vehicle.

Acting U.S. Ambassador John Lange raised the flag at the embassy's temporary headquarters Friday in a house across the road from the Indian Ocean.

The house is almost hidden from view by a high security wall now topped by barbed wire.

"It is a difficult time for all of us," Lange said at the brief ceremony.



EXTRA WATER IN CHINA: A man uses a long pole to propel his raft past a flooded farm Friday near Huangshi, seventy kilometres downstream from Wuhan in China's Hubei province. Thousands of people from this area have been flooded out of their homes for over four weeks as waters refuse to recede back to the swollen Yangtze River (AFP photo)

## 16 killed in Algeria massacres

ALGIERS (AFP) — Sixteen people were killed in three attacks in Algeria overnight, two of them in the Ain Defla region southwest of the capital, security services said Friday.

In a statement, they said seven were killed at Sekouma and four others at Sediri, in the Ain Defla region 160 kilometres from Algiers.

It blamed the attack on "terrorists," the term normally used by officials to signify suspected armed Islamic extremists.

The region is a stalking ground for a faction of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) and is frequently tar-

geted in bombings and massacres.

In another statement later, security services said five people had been killed at Sidi Bouzid, in the Laghouat region further south.

Algeria has been beset by violence linked to battles between state forces and armed Islamic extremists since 1992 when the military annulled the second round of general elections which an Islamist party was poised to win.

Since then, according to Western estimates, some 80,000 people have lost their lives in what has become an almost daily toll

of killings.

On Wednesday, seven passengers were killed and 11 wounded when a bomb went off as an Algiers-Oran train passed through Ain Torki, in Ain Defla.

State radio quoted security officials as blaming the bomb attack, some 100 kilometres west of Algiers, on terrorists.

The violence that has beset Algeria since 1992 has moved from more remote areas to the western approaches to the capital lately, with several civilian massacres or other incidents attributed to armed groups.

On August 2, 12 bus passengers were murdered in

an ambush in the Saïda region, and on July 25, 20 people were massacred in Saïda and Khellil, near Tlemcen.

Then on Monday, security forces said they had found and killed 25 members of the armed group responsible for the Khellil deaths. Their bodies were shown on television, along with an array of weapons.

The security forces said Tuesday they had killed the GIA commander in east Algeria, Eulmi Hamou. Held responsible for a series of attacks, he had been condemned to death and been sought by the Algerian authorities since 1993.

## Albania expels Egyptians

TIRANA (AFP) — Albania arrested and expelled three Egyptian suspected terrorists, in an operation in which the Albanian secret service Shik cooperated with the CIA, police said Thursday.

Albanian intelligence chief Fatos Klosi would not confirm or deny the allegations.

The Egyptians were arrested in Tirana in late June and

early July on suspicion that they were members of Muslim extremist organisations and taken part in several terrorist attacks.

Police said the men had been involved in the killing of an Egyptian parliament speaker in 1992, planted a bomb on a U.S. plane and carried out other terrorist activities in the United States

which had claimed several victims.

Unidentified terrorists attacked the U.S. embassies in Nairobi and Dar Es Salaam last week after accusations by Egypt's banned militant group Jihad that Washington was behind the extradition to Egypt of three of its militants living in Albania.

## 3,000 more Palestinians authorised to work in Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli government authorised another 3,000 Palestinian traders and businessmen to work in Israel, the coordinator for Israeli affairs in the West Bank and Gaza Strip said Friday.

"Authorisation has been given to 2,000 traders and businessmen in the West Bank and 1,000 from the Gaza Strip," Shlomo Dror told AFP.

He said the new authorisations "bring to 21,000" the total number of Palestinian traders and businessmen permitted to work in Israel.

Previously, 14,000 Palestinians from the West Bank and 7,000 from the Gaza Strip had the special trader and businessman authorisation.

In addition, some 50,000 Palestinian workers daily cross from the occupied territories into Israel for day work.

Some 10,000 other Palestinian professionals, working as teachers, nurses, doctors, tourist agents, etc., also hold entry permits into Israel.

Dror said that authorisation should be given soon to nearly 1,000 Palestinian day labourers to work during the annual olive harvest in Israel.

He also said that some 15,000 Palestinians are employed either in industrial zones bordering the autonomous territories or in Jewish settlements in the West Bank or Gaza Strip.

Another 50,000 Palestinians work illegally in Israel, according to Dror, bringing the total number of Palestinians employed daily in Israel to between 130,000 and 150,000 people.

Israel has not sealed off the Palestinian territories since September and plans to launch a new industrial zone within two months at Karmi, at the northern edge of the Gaza Strip, to generate some 20,000 jobs.

## Veteran Egyptian politician dies

CAIRO (AP) — Mustafa Kamel Mourad, the founder-leader of a small Egyptian opposition party, died early Friday. He was 70.

The Socialist Al Ahrar Party said Mourad died in hospital in Cairo after a year-long illness. The statement did not give the illness or cause of death.

A writer of liberal commentaries, Mourad's final column appeared Friday in the party's mouthpiece, Al Ahrar, the newspaper he founded in 1976.

The column condemned the bombings of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, but warned Washington that the attacks were the result of "the oppression and control which the United States practices against the people" of the Third World.

Mourad was born in Cairo in 1927. After school, he joined the army and fought

in the 1948 Arab-Israeli war. Continuing his education as a soldier, he took a degree in military science in 1948 and one in commerce in 1954.

A group of military officers led by Colonel Jamal Abdul Nasser had seized power in 1952 and Mourad was appointed to various positions in the civil service and public sector corporations.

These included spells on the board of directors of textile, cotton and shipping companies.

In 1975, when President Anwar Sadat decided to open up the political spectrum, Mourad was allowed to found the Socialist Al Ahrar Party. The party

appealed to right-wing supporters of the Arab Socialist Union, which until then had been the sole legal party in Egypt.

The following year he founded the party's newspaper,

per, which was the first opposition paper to be published since the 1952 revolution.

Under Mourad's leadership, the party pursued both Islamist and Nasserite policies. It fought the 1987 elections in alliance with the Muslim Brotherhood and a third party, winning a combined 60 seats in the 458-seat National Assembly. But it also hired a well-known Nasserite as editor-in-chief of Al Ahrar.

Currently the party holds one seat in parliament — opposition parties having been reduced to a total of 15 seats in the 1995 elections. The party calls for greater political freedom, worker's rights, and the abolition of the state of emergency, which has been in force since Sadat's assassination in 1981.

Mourad is survived by his wife and three children.

## Romanians chew over Vasile's teeth

BUCHAREST (AP) — When Prime Minister Radu Vasile snuck off for three days during an official visit to Israel to get his teeth fixed, it set tongues wagging.

After an intensive four-day visit where he met his counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu, toured a helicopter factory and greeted thousands of Romanian construction workers in Israel, Vasile vanished from the public spotlight. Where could the prime minister be? Basking in the sun on some Mediterranean beach? Meditating in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict? Or had he thrown in the towel on Romania's economic and political woes?

When he returned, the buzz was about his dental implants — a reported 16 of them. It sparked a discussion about politicians wanting to bite off a bigger slice of the pie.

"I wouldn't invest a nickel tooth in the prime minister's mouth," wrote poet Mircea Dinescu. "But people in Israel have buried \$50,000 under

Radu Vasile's mustache. A brand-new Mercedes." Premier's Counsellor Petrosor Peiu denied Vasile had spent the \$50,000 reported widely in the media. Peiu said Vasile had gone to an Israeli dentist friend and had parted with just \$2,000 for fairly minor dental work.

Whatever the facts, the story touches a nerve when Romanians believe those in office are pampering themselves or want to move above their station. For pampering, real dental treatment or any minor surgery, former President Ion Iliescu was also ridiculed when he went to the dentist and later removed a facial mole. It was seen as vanity, a sign of feminine weakness, not seemingly in a male Balkan leader.

"When you get into office, there is this belief that we are all mortals, but some of the chosen ones are an exception to this," wrote Tudor Octavian in humorous weekly

"Your children have to study in the West, the wife has to get her clothes from Paris and carries have to be taken care with dollars," he wrote.

Like many Romanians, Vasile's teeth were not his strong point. A smoker, his teeth were mostly hidden by a hushy mustache. When he opened his mouth, he revealed nicotine-stained incisors.

After he became premier, Vasile worked on his appearance — taming his wild mane, removing a heavy gold signet ring and dressing with an Italian feel.

In Romania, the dentist is the last resort — you go there when your teeth keep you awake at night. The people don't have dental records and have a horror of the dentist's chair.

As Romanians ape Western habits, attitudes are changing. Newscasters have dazzling smiles and a few German and American-run dentists have opened, offering flossing and mouthwash, at a Western price.



The groom, the best man and the shocked bride-to-be

ATHENS (R) — A bride-to-be suffered a nervous breakdown the night before her wedding on the Greek island of Crete when she discovered the groom, dressed in her wedding gown, in the arms of his best man. The future husband and wife were celebrating at separate parties when the bride's friends asked to go to the couple's new home to take a peek at the wedding dress, the semi-official Athens news agency reported. When they arrived, they found the gown-clad groom locked in a passionate embrace with the best man.

## Prison clothing in fashion

LONDON (R) — Prison clothing could challenge Italy's best-selling designer Giorgio Armani in the fashion stakes, according to British prison authorities. The standard prison blue and white striped shirt is in such demand that a former inmate of a prison in northern England was jailed again only 10 minutes after his release for stealing 25 shirts to sell to fashion retailers. "Prison clothing and prison phonocards — in fact anything with a prison logo on it is pretty trendy,"

the security forces said Tuesday they had killed the GIA commander in east Algeria, Eulmi Hamou. Held responsible for a series of attacks, he had been condemned to death and been sought by the Algerian authorities since 1993.

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## 'Diana Tour'

PARIS (R) — A Parisian hotel is preparing to offer clients a "Diana Tour" retracing Princess Diana's final hours to mark the forthcoming first anniversary of her death, hotel manager Enile Cucciarri said. The Odeon Hotel on Paris's chic Left Bank plans to start the tour this Saturday, providing a black Mercedes for tourists who want to bring a touch of macabre realism to the journey. The trip, which will cost \$25, will take people from the Ritz Hotel, where Diana and her companion Dodi Fayed had their last meal, to the Pont de l'Alma tunnel, scene of their fatal car crash in a black Mercedes.

The tour will also include a visit to the Ritz Hotel, where Diana and her companion Dodi Fayed had their last meal, to the Pont de l'Alma tunnel, scene of their fatal car crash in a black Mercedes.

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The tour will also include a visit to the Ritz Hotel, where Diana and her companion Dodi Fayed had their last meal, to the Pont de l'Alma tunnel, scene of their fatal car crash in a black Mercedes.

## Greece: Turkey forcing arms build-up

ATHENS (AP) — Growing threats from Turkey force Greece to stick to costly military build-up plans despite economic hardships that have led to strikes and protests, senior government officials said Friday.

"Greece is facing with calmness and sobriety existing threats in the general region," Premier Simitis said in an obvious reference to rival Turkey.

Defence Minister Akis

Twohadzopoulos urged for Greece to maintain a strong military presence, including honouring its defence pledge with Greek Cypriots.

The remarks were made to coincide with the Aug. 15 holiday that marks the Assumption of the Virgin Mary. In Greece, the day also is used to celebrate the armed forces.

Greece has earmarked an estimated \$24 billion over the next five years for new fighter

jets, missiles, ships, tanks and other weapons. Turkey also is upgrading its military forces.

The programme has further strained Greece's economy, already shaken from austerity programmes designed to allow the country to join the European Union's single currency group in 2001. Efforts to sell state companies and restructure the economy have led to widespread protests and strikes.

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